

24 July 1996

Friday July 26 1996

Algeria D 2.50	Hong Kong HK\$ 25	Osaka Y 100
Argentina P 100	India R 100	Paris F 100
Australia A 1.50	Indonesia Rp 100	Portugal E 200
Bahamas B 2.00	Japan Y 100	Romania L 100
Bahrain B 2.00	Korea W 100	Saudi Arabia R 10
Belgium F 100	Malaysia M 100	Slovakia SK 100
Canada C 1.00	Mexico M 100	Slovenia S 100
Chad C 100	Nigeria N 100	Spain P 100
Czech Republic KCz 100	Poland Z 100	Sweden S 100
Danish D 100	Romania L 100	Switzerland S 100
Deutsche M 100	Russia R 100	Taiwan T 100
France F 100	Saudi Arabia R 10	Thailand T 100
Germany D 1.00	Singapore S 100	UK £ 100
Greece G 100	Slovakia SK 100	USA US\$ 2.75
	Slovenia S 100	Yugoslavia Y 100
	Spain P 100	Zimbabwe Z 100

# The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46.615



Hollywood and life on death row  
**Review**  
Plus: Why it's OK to like Wagner; R D Laing; James Dean

## Europe sends back £500m

### Huge underspend boosts tax hopes

John Palmer in Brussels and Larry Elliott  
**T**HE Government's beleaguered Euro-enthusiasts received a much-needed boost last night when Brussels revealed that a massive underspend last year will allow it to pay back more than £500 million into Treasury coffers.

While the European Commission decision will make it easier for Germany and France to achieve the tough conditions for monetary union, it will also allow the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke — the Cabinet's leading pro-European — to mount a counter-offensive against the increasingly vocal Euro-sceptic wing of his party.

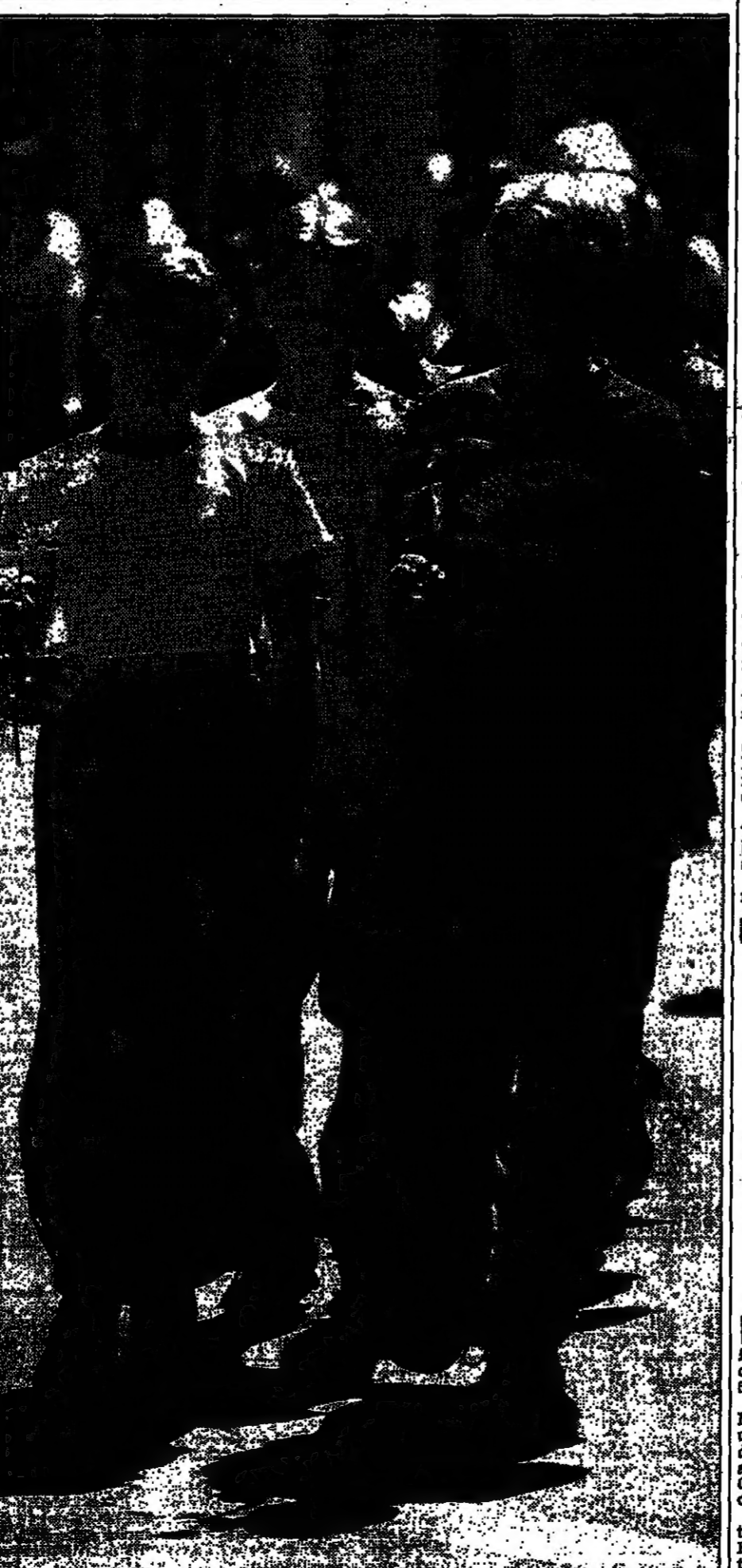
Both governments want every cent saved in Brussels returned to them, a Commission official said yesterday. "This repayment could make a significant contribution to EU governments trying to meet the Maastricht treaty criteria on lower budget deficits next year to ensure they can join the move to a single European currency in 1999."

mission has proposed an overall 3 per cent increase in spending for 1997, most EU governments are insisting on a freeze in the £85 billion budget.

### Short loses out as Blair tightens grip

Michael White Political Editor  
**T**ONY BLAIR last night tightened his white-knuckled grip on Labour's shadow cabinet when he ignored the collective verdict of backbench MPs on their performance in order to manoeuvre fellow modernisers into key positions and push leftwinger Clare Short out of the limelight.

### Pupils bid farewell to murdered Caroline



Children carry flowers into St Mary Magdalen Church at Lameston, Cornwall, yesterday for the funeral of Caroline Dickinson, 13, who was raped and murdered at Pieve-Fornigere, near St Malo, during a school trip.

### Airline fined £150,000 over near-disaster

Keith Harper Transport Editor  
**A**N AIRLINE was yesterday fined £150,000, with 225,000 certificates, after pleading guilty to negligently endangering life following a lapse in maintenance procedures which could have killed 188 holiday-makers on one of its jets.

company accepted the court's findings. Since the incident, two senior managers had left the company and three new managers had been taken on as part of the restructuring of the engineering division.

As Ms Short was demoted from the high-profile transport portfolio to overseas development — despite her strong third place showing in Wednesday's "quickie" shadow elections — two key Blairites, Harriet Harman and Chris Smith, swapped briefs, Ms Harman taking on social security, and Mr Smith health.

**Clare's shortcomings**  
1988: Resigns from Kinrock's front bench over Labour's support for the Prevention of Terrorism Act.  
1991: Resigns as social security spokeswoman over Gulf War policy.  
1996: As transport spokeswoman, antagonises leadership with demand on

Britain World News Finance Sport



MICHAEL Fortillo, the Deputy Prime Minister, called a £2 billion deal for new defence orders, claiming it secured 5,000 jobs.

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Comment and Letters 8  
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Stock Exchange 11  
Radio 12; TV 12

770261 307354

2 NEWS

Sketch

Yorkshire: all wind, no water



Martin Wainwright

THE yellow-grass county of Yorkshire may be chronically short of water...

ing shareholders, Mr Gough began to answer the last question by the way he dealt with the first two...

£4bn weapons deal brings peace to warring Cabinet and promises jobs and votes in Tory marginals

Heseltine ends MoD fight



Ministers divided on spending: Michael Portillo (above) and Kenneth Clarke

FIVE THOUSAND jobs in the defence industry were saved last night when Michael Heseltine brokered a £4 billion deal for new orders between warring Cabinet colleagues...

Ministry of Defence that any early expenditure on the new weapons orders — the refurbished Nimrod, cruise and anti-tank missiles — would be accommodated within the agreed public spending totals for this year and next.

Defence deal

Contracts to build two new missile systems and to rebuild the Nimrod surveillance aircraft have been awarded to British-based companies in a deal worth some £2.5bn over ten years, securing 5,000 jobs around the country.



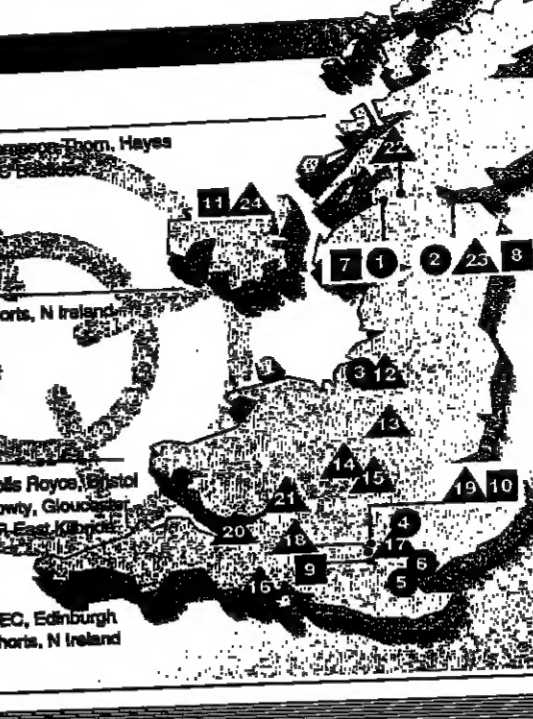
Mini cruise missile



Storm Shadow

Where the jobs are

- Storm Shadow: 1 RNAD, Bishopton; 2 GEC, Edinburgh; 3 Royal Ordnance, Chorley; 4 BAe Stnningly...



First night

'Comedy' bears strange fruit

Michael Billington

Troilus and Cressida Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford upon Avon

into womanly maturity which is cruelly traded for a Greek. The great scene when she is ardently besieged by Diomedes is played on a note of tremulous uncertainty...

Nationwide rate cut turns the screw on banks

Ian Wylie

THE mortgage price war between banks and building societies intensified yesterday when the Nationwide building society cut its standard variable rate by 0.25 per cent to 6.49 per cent...

Life for private eye's killer wife

'Cold-hearted' woman's lack of emotion at inquest was give-away in case of 'gruesome' contract killing which was set up in South Africa



Len Trigwell with his wife and daughter Julie at the court

quest into her husband's death. Detective Superintendent Ken Evans, who led the murder inquiry, after the trial described Mrs Trigwell as "a very callous, cold-hearted woman."

smatching tug-of-love children for money. The assassination plot was hatched in a house owned by Barry Trigwell in South Africa...

£200m emergency plan to ease crowding in prison

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

A £200 MILLION emergency prison building programme was announced yesterday to improve security and to cope with a rapid rise in the jail population...

Nose drops offer migraine sufferers cheap, instant relief

Ian Katz in New York

MILD, easily administered anaesthetic commonly used by dentists and for minor surgery may offer almost instant relief to millions of migraine sufferers...

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# Army ousts Burundi government

## Coup has led to fears of mass blood-letting, Chris McGreal in Bujumbura reports

**B**URUNDI'S mainly Tutsi army seized control of this violence-racked central African country yesterday, deposed the civilian coalition government which included moderate Hutus, and defied the outside world to do its worst.

"Burundi is not going to be colonised again. This is an independent country and we are not going to be governed by foreigners," an army spokesman, Lieutenant-Colonel Longin Mhumi, said as the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) condemned the coup and threatened intervention.

After criticising deep divisions within the Hutu-Tutsi coalition, and its inability to tackle the civil war, the military suspended the parliament and political parties. It also took control of state radio, banned demonstrations and strikes, imposed a 7pm curfew, temporarily cut telephone links, and closed the airport and land borders. A former military dictator, Pierre Buyoya, was declared president.

Bursts of heavy gunfire echoed through the capital, Bujumbura, and armoured personnel carriers packed with troops rolled into the city centre. Although the takeover was apparently bloodless, the instability that may follow could plunge the country into an intensified bout of blood-letting similar to that which produced genocide in Rwanda in 1994.

The defence minister, Firmin Ndirakobuca, said the military had stepped in because the deposed president, Sylvestre Ntibantunganya, had effectively resigned after seeking sanctuary in the American ambassador's residence on Wednesday because he feared assassination. The army said the former president would not be harmed if he left United States protection.

The OAU secretary-general, Salim Ahmed Salim, threatened military intervention, although he did not say who would lead it. "Any attempt to take over power through illegal means will not be accepted by Africa and will be met by military force." The UN spokeswoman, Sylvia Fox, said: "The secretary-general (Boutros Boutros-Ghali) strongly urges all concerned to uphold the constitution and to bear in mind that the international community will on no account accept a change of government by force or other illegitimate means in Burundi." Ms Fox said Mr Boutros-Ghali supported calls for a regional summit to be urgently convened to discuss ways of calming the situation.

Belgium and France both said last night that they were watching the situation closely but neither had any immediate plans to intervene. There are more than 300 Belgians in Burundi, 200 French, and 150 Britons, under Belgian consular protection.

Bujumbura's streets started to empty after lunch when state radio broadcast a warning to people to stay at home. A grenade explosion sent people fleeing from the market. Soldiers appeared, telling people to get off the streets. International phone lines were cut, and military road-blocks were thrown up.

Shortly afterwards, the radio announced that the Tutsi prime minister, Antoine Ndirwayo, had resigned after his party pulled out of the ruling coalition and the administration had collapsed. Although the army portrayed itself as having stepped in to save the situation, there is little doubt that senior officers conspired with the prime minister's mainly Tutsi Uprona party — the second-largest in the government and the real power in the administration.

Powerful elements of the military vigorously opposed a plan for a regional military force to subdue the slaughter of civilians by the largely Tutsi army and Hutu rebels. Uprona's withdrawal from the government provided the military with the pretext it needed to seize power.

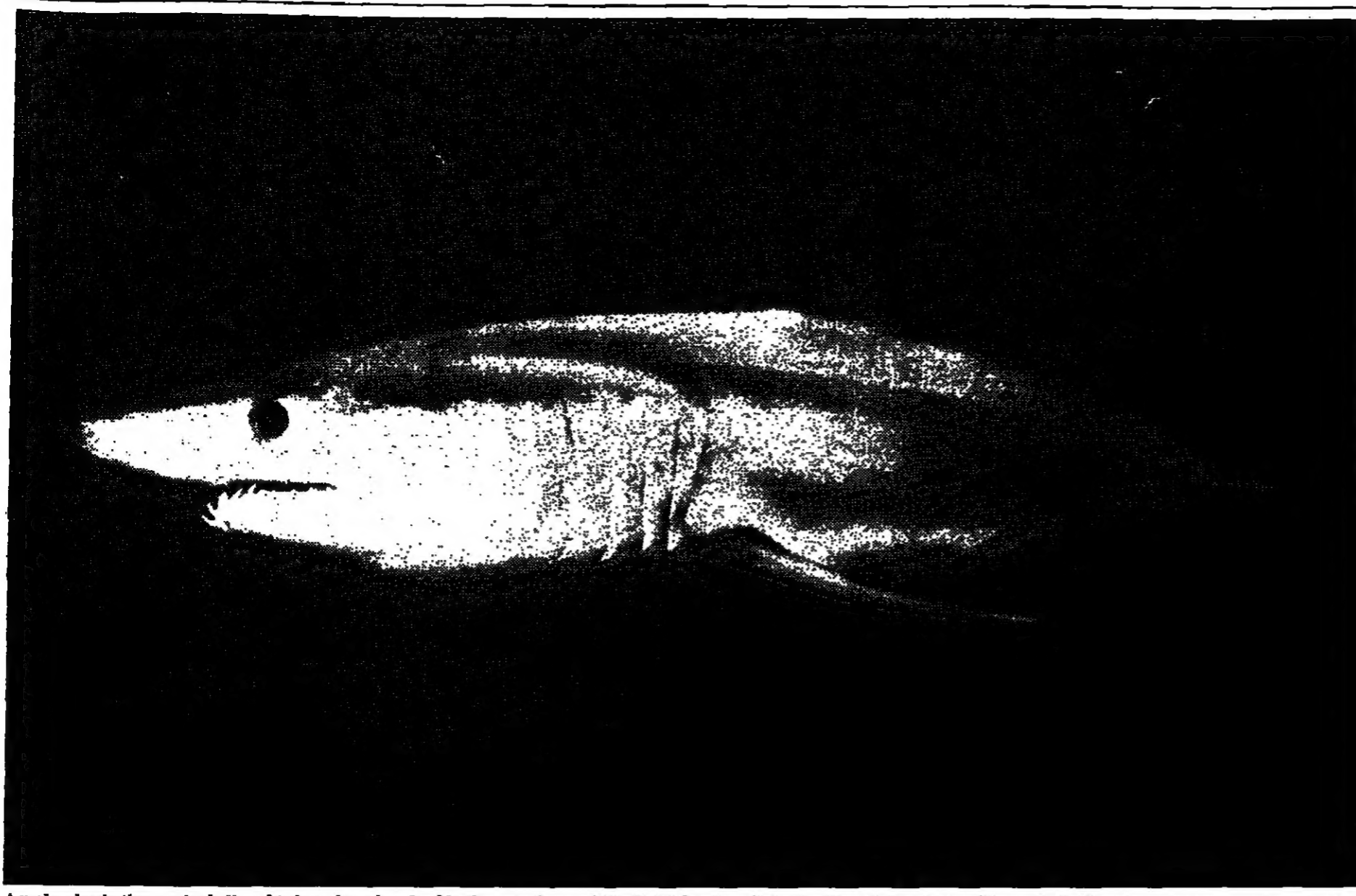
But there were signs that the army itself is divided over the handling of the coup. The defence minister said Major Buyoya had been named as interim president because he had tried to unite Burundians by permitting the first free election three years ago, which he lost. The winner, Burundi's first Hutu president, Melchior Ndadaye, was assassinated a few months later, sparking the civil war which has killed an estimated 150,000.

Major Buyoya would be more acceptable to Burundi's neighbours, and to some of the Hutu majority. But the coup was immediately denounced by Major Buyoya's arch rival — the man he overthrew in 1987, Jean-Baptiste Bagaza. Mr Bagaza said the coup would lead to serious violence because his supporters would not accept the new government. Earlier in the day, Tutsi students had demonstrated, demanding a coup but denouncing Major Buyoya as too sympathetic to Hutus.

Mr Ntibantunganya was believed to be still sheltering in the American ambassador's residence last night. According to his aides, he sought US protection on Tuesday after he was warned by the army chief of staff that the military could not guarantee his safety. Earlier in the day, the president had been stoned by a mob of Tutsis at a mass funeral for victims of a massacre by Hutu rebels.

Most cabinet ministers from the deposed president's party have sought shelter in other Western missions. Ms Fox said Mr Boutros-Ghali supported calls for a regional summit to be urgently convened to discuss ways of calming the situation.

Creeping coup, page 6; Leader comment, page 8



A mako shark, the species believed to have been involved in the experience of Martin Richardson (below), although they have seldom attacked humans. PHOTOGRAPH: MARTY SHYDERMAN

# 'Don't swim with dolphins'

## It could be the way to provoke an attack by sharks, warns expert



Stuart Millar on a Red Sea incident

**A**N EXPERT warned yesterday against swimming with dolphins after a British holidaymaker told how they had saved his life during a shark attack that left him needing more than 200 stitches.

Martin Richardson, aged 28, from Fordham, Essex, was diving in the Red Sea off Egypt's Sinai peninsula on Tuesday when the shark struck, biting the left side of his chest.

Ian Fergusson, director of the European Shark Research Bureau, said yesterday that Mr Richardson's attacker was probably a shortfin mako, a relative of the great white, which also frequents Cornish offshore waters during high summer. Makos have rarely been implicated in attacks.

Mr Fergusson warned that

swimming among dolphins may provoke shark attacks. "Dolphins are often prey to sharks in a number of regions worldwide," he said. "In my view, it is as mad as strolling around a waterhole in the Masai Mara, surrounded by wildebeest, and not giving a damn about the risk from lions."

Thousands of people swim with dolphins every year in attractions used worldwide to promote resorts, although in some cases the dolphins are kept in controlled areas.

Describing the attack from the military hospital at al-Tur where he was subsequently taken, Mr Richardson said: "The shark punctured my lung and took a little piece of my rib with it and a few muscles. I didn't really feel any pain. It was more shock than anything else. It let go of me

and then it came back again. There was blood everywhere and I screamed for my friends in the boat to come and pick me up."

Mr Richardson said he did not see the shark until the second attack. "It bit under my left shoulder and that was about the worst of all. That one really ripped all my muscles."

"I saw the top of its head. I punched it with my right hand and it went away again and then it came back and took another bite out of me — a fleshy bite above my right nipple."

"I was struggling and screaming and then it went away again. I was waiting for it to come come and finish me off. For sure I thought I was a goner."

Although the boat did not reach Mr Richardson for another two minutes, the shark did not return for the kill. His friends believe he owes his life to three bottlenose dolphins.

They encircled Mr Richardson, flapping their fins and tails to scare away the shark — a defensive behaviour marine zoologists say is common for mothers trying to protect their calves from predators. The dolphins continued to circle until Mr Richardson was pulled aboard the boat.

"I don't know what happened, it just didn't come back. Something stopped it. Whether it was the dolphins I don't know," he said.

He suffered at least four

bites to his shoulder, stomach and back, including one that slightly punctured a lung. Witnesses claimed that his beating heart was visible through the wounds.

Doctors said he received more than 200 stitches and may have to have a skin graft above his right nipple.

Although only one in three victims survive a shark attack, Mr Richardson is the second Briton to do so in the last four months. In March, Jean Hotchkies, aged 47, from Warwickshire, underwent four hours of micro-surgery to save her left arm after she tore free from a tiger shark off Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

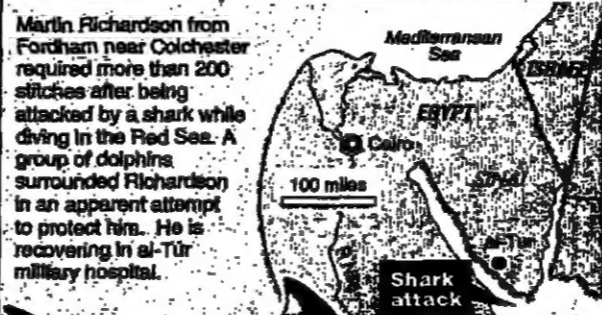
Only five or six out of 350 species of shark are known to attack swimmers. The most dangerous are the white, the bull, and the tiger species.

Figures for shark attacks are unreliable because tourist resorts are afraid to report incidents. According to the ESRR, about 80 attacks are reported worldwide each year, of which around 25 per cent are fatal. But in the Mediterranean, 45 of the 60 confirmed incidents since 1990 have been fatal, and probably the work of great whites.

White sharks hunt by getting to the least linear distance from their prey — often directly underneath — then swinging up vertically to hit the prey with so much force that it comes straight out of the water with the victim in its mouth.


## Saved by dolphins

Martin Richardson from Fordham near Colchester required more than 200 stitches after being attacked by a shark while diving in the Red Sea. A group of dolphins surrounded Richardson in an apparent attempt to protect him. He is recovering in al-Tur military hospital.



## Recent shark attacks

- **March 1995** Jean Hotchkies, from Warwickshire, undergoes surgery to save her left arm which was left with bits hanging off everywhere after a tiger shark attack in Australia.
- **January 1995** A Mako shark rams and strikes an Australian fishing boat, then circles the survivors, clinging to a tiny life raft, for nine hours.
- **September 1995** Surfing champion Andrew Carter becomes the only man to survive a double attack by a great white, but his best friend is eaten alive. Carter's leg was bitten to the bone from hip to knee.
- **August 1995** Features of a shark's dorsal fin were seen while an amateur diver was attacked by a 120lb shark called Aweohe.
- **August 1995** A 100 great white shark cleaves a net on his 400-mile north of Sydney while his bride watches in horror.
- **June 1995** Theresa Cartwright dies in shark attack while diving off the coast of Tasmania.
- **March 1995** Sharks eat at least three people whose boat capsized off the coast of Papua New Guinea.








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4 BRITAIN



Families find refuge from hatred of the Ulster mobs

Peter Hetherington visits a Belfast hostel which is offering sanctuary to victims of sectarianism forced out of their homes

THEY wait nervously in a large, anonymous hostel — a haven of last resort — beside the enduring peace line separating two cultures. Thrown, or burned, out of their homes this month by baying mobs, the displaced families of Belfast can only reflect on the days before this month's marching season when Protestant and Catholic seemed on the friendliest of

want to know. They just looked the other way, ignored us." The mob didn't ignore the family for much longer. Dolores said: "I was making the children something to eat when there was this knock on the door. Two men with scarves over their faces appeared, with two cans of petrol. They said: 'We don't want you in this area during the marching season. If you're not out in an hour we'll burn you out.' They wouldn't listen to reason." So the Catholic family, five children and three adults, left in two taxis and found their way to a hostel in West Belfast where others, like Jackie and John, had sought shelter. Jackie, 28, was born in the loyalist Shankill area. John, 30, from the Catholic Ballymurphy estate, was knecapped in both legs by republican punishment squads as a teenager. The couple have six children. "I don't think they should be told what to believe in, apart from right and wrong," said John. "They can make their own minds up when they get older." They were regarded as a "mixed family" in the Old Park area. That did not please the mob. Jackie remembers up to 100 of them in the street,

singing Orange songs. "Then a child's bike came hurtling through the window. John went out and started talking to them and at first I didn't take it seriously. I said I was staying, that they wouldn't get me out for love and money. The next day they came round and told us we had an hour to leave and I got scared. One said we were a mixed marriage and if we didn't get out they'd burn us out, but two of them did offer to help us pack." She recalls that a house opposite their rented home was set alight, while 15 other mixed marriage couples were forced out of the area. Throughout the province so far this month, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive says that officially 211 families have been intimidated out of their homes compared with 22 in the whole of July last year. But many cases are probably not reported to the state agency, which is charged with finding accommodation for the homeless. This month's disturbances have so far cost the executive over £1 million in temporary accommodation, repairs, and compensation to displaced families who cannot sell their homes. "We didn't expect anything on this scale," said an official.

The West Belfast hostel is one of four funded by the agency in the city. John is careful not to blame loyalists or nationalists for the disturbances which cost his family a home. "The way I see it is that there is nothing to choose between both sides. It's fit for fat. They don't know what they want and it seems they have been waiting for an excuse to start something." Jackie said: "I just hope it happens to them, too, so they know what it's like to lose your home." Martine said: "When we went back to collect our furniture and possessions they were outside, laughing and shouting 'Fenian bastards'. They vandalised everything they could and stole a lot." Soon the executive hopes to rehouse many of the displaced families, secure inside segregated estates well away from areas once considered "mixed". The warden of the West Belfast hostel, born in West Cork, is in no doubt that the clock has been turned back. She is pessimistic. "It was wonderful around here recently — euphoric is the only word. But there is tension now. You can feel it. People think it is going to get worse."

Magnetic energy harnessed in fight against depression

Chris Millill Medical Correspondent TREATMENT with magnetic currents can help people with severe depression, and could be a more gentle alternative to electroconvulsive therapy (ECT), neurologists say today. A group from Spain, led by Alvaro Pascual-Leon, gave rapid bursts of magnetic energy through the head to 17 patients with severe long-term depression which had not responded to drug treatment. Nine of the patients had had ECT. The doctors say in the Lancet that 11 of the 17 showed a marked improvement, although this only lasted for two weeks. The researchers, from Valencia, say that unlike ECT, the treatment is practically painless, does not require anaesthesia or induce seizures,

and the risks and side effects are slight. They say it is too early to say the technique, called rapid-rate transcranial magnetic stimulation, or rTMS, should replace drugs or ECT, but further studies should be carried out. Under the procedure, a magnetic coil was placed on the scalp in one of three positions over the brain. Magnetic pulses were induced over a course of five sessions and depressive symptoms assessed. The researchers state: "It would certainly be hasty to advocate the replacement of ECT by rTMS, but we hope this study will encourage the development of a subconvulsive mode of treatment of depression using rTMS." "Ultimately, the relevant clinical questions are whether rTMS would be more beneficial than, or at least equally beneficial to, ECT."

Delights of English pub fare were not unknown to pharaoh's men

Tim Radford Science Editor PHAROAH'S men probably tucked into a perfectly decent ploughman's lunch, according to a Cambridge bridge scientist. Ancient Egyptians also carried bread and beer with them into their desert tombs to nourish them in the afterlife. Because of this, Deivan Samuel of the

McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research at Cambridge was able to gather enough crumbs around the sarcophagi and gunge from the bottom of mummies' beer flasks to discover how people baked and brewed in Nefertiti's kingdom on the Nile. She reports today in the US Journal Science that Egyptian bread had a dense crumb, thin crusts and was darker on top than under-

neath — a sign of baking. There were signs of chaff fragments, but some loaves were clean and fine textured. The Egyptians clearly knew about yeast, and fig and coriander tarts up in fruit loaves in some tombs. Beer-making 3,000 years ago, too, turned out to be more sophisticated than anyone thought. Electron microscope study of the linings of beer vessels from tombs dating from 1500 BC showed something more complex than crumbling stale bread into water and letting it ferment. Cereal grains — both barley and wheat — were malted and heated to provide sugar and flavour, and these were then mixed with sprouted, unheated grains in water. The sugar and starch solution was then decanted and fermented.

Advertisement for Sainsbury's Homebase. It features an image of a shower enclosure and text: "OFFER ENDS 13TH AUG 15% off all shower enclosures, screens and trays. SAINSBURY'S HOMEBASE HOUSE AND GARDEN CENTRES Good Ideas cost less at Homebase. Monday-Thursday 8am-8pm, Friday 8am-9pm, Saturday 8am-8pm, Sunday 10am-4pm. All sizes are approximate and not to scale. Merchandise subject to availability. Not all products will be available at the following Homebase stores: Maidstone - St. Peter's Street, Acongrange and Perth. Opening times may vary. Please call 011-200 0200 for details of your nearest store. \*Except prices in Scotland which open 9am-6pm. Offer valid while stocks last. Purchases must be paid for in full and in person at the store by 13th August 1996. The 15% offer applies to all marked prices."

Oasis boss salutes Sex Pistols

Alex Bellos on a surprise £5,000 endorsement of a rival label's reformed punk heroes by the top Britpop group's multi-millionaire employer OASIS, certainly one of the coolest bands in the world, also like to claim they are the biggest. But are they the best? It appears even they are having doubts. Alan McGee, manager of their record company, has taken the bizarre step of spending £5,000 on a newspaper advert saying that, in fact, the Sex Pistols are rather better. McGee, who discovered Oasis at a gig in Glasgow, was so stunned by the experience of seeing the reformed punk four-piece at London's Shepherd's Bush Empire that he took a full page ad out in this week's New Musical Express. "I went half expecting it to be part comedy part irrelevancy," he wrote. "What I saw destroyed my preconceptions. [They] were simply stunning. Literally the best rock 'n' roll band around. "It was one of the best gigs I have ever seen. The Sex Pistols changed my life in 1977 and 1996. If you don't get it now, you would have never got it then. Britpop? More like Britpop. You're welcome to be our alternative royal family." McGee, aged 34, who runs Creation records, had never seen the Pistols before. He went last week with Noel Gallagher, Oasis song-

writer and not a man noted for his modesty. "Noel turned round half way through and said they are a lot better than us. That is some compliment." The Sex Pistols, the so-called godfathers of punk, reformed this year after a gap of 18 years. John Lydon, the lead singer now aged 40, told a press conference to launch a tour and live album that they were doing it to spare the public "all those trashy little pop stars you have got." The tour has been plagued with problems and mediocre reviews. Concerts in Madrid and Belfast were cancelled. A spokeswoman for the Sex Pistols, who are signed to Creation rivals Virgin, said they were shocked when they opened the NME and saw the ad. "Everybody said 'Wow, what's this?' We're not quite sure of Alex's motives." The ad is all the more peculiar given McGee's usual reluctance to deal with the media. He is one of the music industry's most powerful figures, yet until recently he had refused interviews for six years. He said he paid for the ad because he wanted to silence the Pistols' critics. "I probably have made too much money. But if you are going to be a multi-millionaire, you might as well enjoy it. If you are going to spend five grand you might as well do it in style." Creation released a solo album earlier this year by Glen Matlock, the Sex Pistol who was thrown out of the band to make way for Sid Vicious. Matlock is in the reformed Pistols, but McGee denied he was just indirectly promoting his own record. "It would be a bizarre marketing plan to spend money saying that another record company's hand is better than ours. I did the ad because the gig was genius, it was mega. It's as simple as that."

Welsh singer takes America by storm with her debut single

Dan Gleister Arts correspondent YOUR starter for 10, pop pickers: which British artist has the fastest climbing record on the American singles chart? Eric Clapton, at number six with Change The World? Wrong. The answer is I Love You Always Forever by Welsh singer-songwriter Donna Lewis. Her debut single, currently at number 13 on the US top 100, is tipped to enter the top 10 following appearances on the top-rated David Letterman and Jay Leno television shows. "Oh my God, that's something to look forward to," she

says, speaking appropriately enough from Woodstock in upstate New York. The Cardiff-born singer, who modestly gives her age as "thirtysomething", first went to the US three years ago, taking her demo tapes around record companies after having little luck in Britain. Several people showed an interest, but she returned to Britain empty-handed to continue singing in a piano bar. "I also did piano bar work in Scandinavia. I used to say to people 'I'm not the normal piano bar person. I would do covers of Prince and Kate Bush. Now I say to myself that I better keep my hand in because you never know what might happen."

She was saved from the piano bar when someone from Atlantic Records in New York heard her demo. That was when her problems began. "They wanted to copy me but the person who had the demo wouldn't give them my phone number. They were on the point of hiring a private detective to try to find me when a friend told me they had been hassling him to get my number." That was two years ago. In the interim Lewis has clashed with her producer, who did not share her idea of how her music should sound, before ending up co-producing her album with Kevin Killen, who has worked with Kate Bush, U2 and Elvis Costello. Since then, she hasn't looked back. The album has just been released in the States, while the single has advanced without the help of a video. "I Love You Always Forever" is self-penned, a polished piece of melodic rock, and inspired by the HE Bates novel, Lydia. "Originally it was called Lydia, but the promo people said it might create problems, because the word Lydia doesn't appear in the song. I suppose I'm glad I did change it now. It remains to be seen whether she will be able to repeat her American success in the UK. If not, she may join the list of British artists who have cracked the American market but failed at home.

Scientists claim milestone in repairing spinal cords

Tim Radford Science Editor CLAIM by scientists in Taiwan and Sweden that they have been able to repair the severed spinal cords of rats has been hailed by a New York neurosurgeon as "the first evidence that true functional regeneration can occur

in the adult spinal cord". The news — reported today in the US journal Science — offers hope for paraplegics of a kind nobody could have dreamed of a decade ago. The experiment, by Henrich Cheng who works at both of the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm and a veterans' hospital in Taipei, and Lars Olson of Stockholm, involved

the removal of five millimetres from the spinal cord of adult rats. The scientists experimented with nerve implants to bridge the gap and found that things worked better the more they used. The result was, says Wise Young of New York university medical centre "a milestone". The rats were able to move their hind legs. Recovery was limited: the rats were only able to stand and support their weight. It could be a long time before the research helps humans. Experts in centres for spinal injury are still concentrating on mechanical and electronic aids to help paraplegics, and testing electrical wiring to carry impulses to the muscles below the injury.

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News in brief

Helpline offer for children

A 24-HOUR helpline has been set up to support former children's home residents who may have been abused by an HIV positive social worker. Mark Trotter, aged 34, was being investigated for five child sex assaults when he died of an AIDS-related illness last year.

UK to fight VAT on tolls

BRITISH motorists should be paying VAT on tunnel and bridge tolls, the European Commission said yesterday. It announced it was taking Britain and three other EU countries to court for failing to charge VAT on tolls for roads, tunnels and bridges.

Dentists plead for help

DENTISTS yesterday set out a rescue package for their profession, which they claim is in a deepening crisis. The British Dental Association's Manifesto for Dentistry calls for a return to a comprehensive NHS dental service, and the re-introduction of free dental check-ups.

Army rejects drug charges

MINISTRY OF Defence officials yesterday denied charges that drug taking was increasing in the army after five members of the Household Cavalry tested positive for cannabis. An MoD spokesman said strict discipline and education programmes meant young recruits were less likely to try drugs than their civilian counterparts.

£8,000 fine over tithe barn

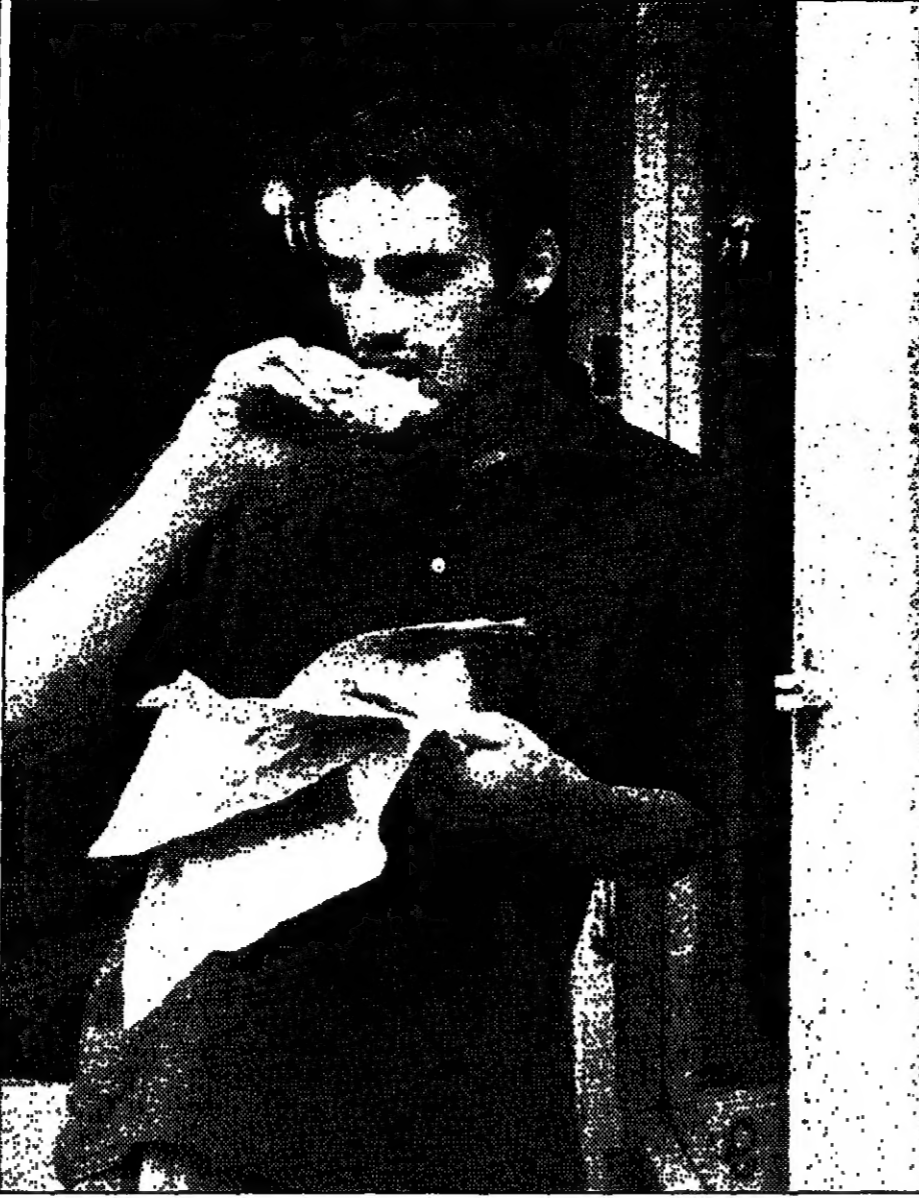
THE owner of a 15th century tithe barn was fined a total of £8,000 yesterday after being convicted on four counts of causing reckless damage to an ancient monument. Luton crown court was told the barn had been subjected to excavations to its ancient drainage system and septic tank, and the most, and illegal digging of foundations for an outbuilding and trenches for electric cables.

Turner to leave GMTV

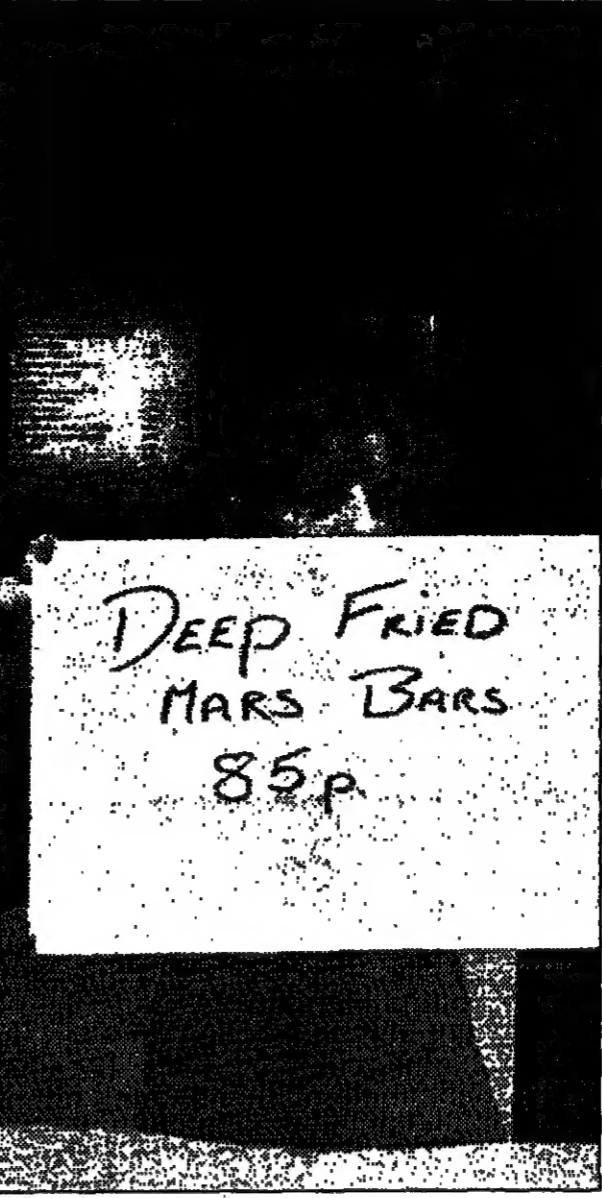
ANTHERA Turner is to leave her GMTV breakfast show to concentrate on projects for ITV. She ended months of speculation about her future on the breakfast show with an announcement yesterday that she would leave in December. Ms Turner, aged 36, also said she was looking forward to giving up the 4am start to try to start a family with husband and manager Peter Fowler.

Apology

THE article Mothers of Contention (G2, July 23) suggested that the Director of Public Prosecutions, Barbara Mills QC "ordered thousands of frozen embryos to be destroyed". This statement is incorrect. The DPP has no such role and we apologise unreservedly for any embarrassment caused by a mistake in the editing process.



Dining out... A chip shop customer bites into a fried Mars Bar. 'It is all too easy to jump to simplistic answers for Scotland's diet' PHOTOGRAPH BY MURDO MACLEOD



Sweet taste of success

THE Haven chip shop in Stonehaven engineered the revival of the deep fried Mars Bar last summer, much to the disgust of Britain. Here, Evelyn Balgovan, who works in the shop, tells the story of the rebirth of a Scottish culinary delight.

Unhealthy Scots get fat chance of longer life

bles while a third of boys eat chips every day. By 15, a fair proportion of Scotland's youth are well acquainted with cigarettes and alcohol. The result is that Scots die younger.

Delicacies

- Smoked salmon
Battered pizza
Haggis, neeps and tatties
Deep fried Mars Bars
Shortbread
Turnovers tea cakes
Chip butties
Scotch eggs
Porridge
All washed down with Irn Bru

ment, Lord Douglas Hamilton said that the Scottish Office realised that it could not force people to change their eating habits, only persuade. Many Scots argue that bad eating is a mixture between a political problem based on poverty and an unhealthy social attitude.

lton said: "The appalling fact is that, despite some recent improvements, premature death in Scotland is twice as likely as in many western European countries, with over 2,600 people under 65 dying every year from heart disease, over 4,000 from cancer and 700 from strokes.

Governors reaffirm Birt's plans

THE governors of the BBC decided at the end of a seven-hour board meeting yesterday to push ahead with their restructuring plans for the World Service despite the opposition.

But there were no signs of any further doubts or delays after yesterday's meeting. Even the governors known to harbour doubts about the wisdom of John Birt's plans were keeping their heads down.

sis in the corporation at the scale of the opposition. His spokesman yesterday played down the significance of the plans to unify the news-gathering services of the World Service and the BBC by April next year and to "co-locate" them on a single site.

Save the World Service

My World Service
Shirley Williams
THE World Service has been for me like the fixed point of a compass, a way to get one's bearings in the fast changing world. Here are reports I can rely on.

conference, government delegates and NGO [non-government organisations] representatives alike mentioned how important the World Service was in keeping the hope of freedom and human rights alive, especially in countries blighted by dictatorship.

Use law on rogue lorries, MPs urge

MPs yesterday demanded rigorous enforcement of laws governing road haulage, to reduce a growing number of accidents involving lorries and other heavy goods vehicles.

The Commons select committee on transport has concluded that while the regulations governing HGVs, buses, and coaches are generally adequate, the chance of even the most serious violators being caught is too low, and subsequent punishments are too lenient.

THE SELFRIDGES SUMMER SALE ENDS SUNDAY 28TH FURTHER 10% OFF MARKED SALE PRICES FOR LAST 3 DAYS OF SALE\* Friday 26th and Saturday 27th July 9.30AM - 7.00PM Sunday 28th July 12.00NOON - 6.00PM SELFRIDGES Oxford Street London 0171-629 1234

6 WORLD NEWS

Creeping coup that caught up with Burundi

Chris McGreal in Bujumbura

UNTIL yesterday, they called it the creeping coup. It began three years ago with the army's assassination of Burundi's first freely elected and Hutu president, Melchior Ndadaye...

leashed their anger about brutally dashed hopes on their Tutsi neighbours. The army exacted its revenge on Hutus. Tens of thousands died. In the past three years, the killing has not stopped.

success. Civilian government was overthrown. Burundi's latest Hutu president, Sylvestre Ntibantunganya, was hiding in the United States embassy. The Hutu half of the cabinet fled to other Western embassies. And majority rule was finally emasculated.

Belgium offers to aid Britons

LEADERS of the 150-strong British community in Burundi are in close contact with the Belgian embassy, which is offering them consular protection, the Foreign Office said yesterday, Richard Norton-Taylor writes.

Most of the nationals there are aid workers and members of non-government organisations. Evacuation arrangements would be made if they were required, the FO said.

di's last Tutsi prime minister who resigned yesterday during the coup, was installed last year with the support of the army and one of the country's most notorious extremists, the former military dictator Jean-Baptiste Bagaza.

week of mourning after the slaughter of more than 300 people on Saturday. But the military ensures that no such pictures reach the Hutus slaughtered by the army, militias and aggrieved Tutsi civilians.

elite. They saw clearly that foreign troops would mean pressure to negotiate with the rebels and Frodebu, and that could only lead to one thing: Any effective political settlement would have to recognise the legitimacy of majority rule, albeit with strong security and democratic guarantees for the Tutsi minority.

News in brief

EU threatens to quit Mostar

THE European Union yesterday threatened to abandon its two-year peace mission in the divided Bosnian city of Mostar on August 4 unless Croat nationalists accept the results of last month's elections to a new unified city assembly.

Colombo bomb suspects held

SRI LANKAN police yesterday detained 37 people following the bombing on Wednesday of a train crowded with commuters in the capital, Colombo, at the height of the evening rush-hour.

Court rejects Biko claim

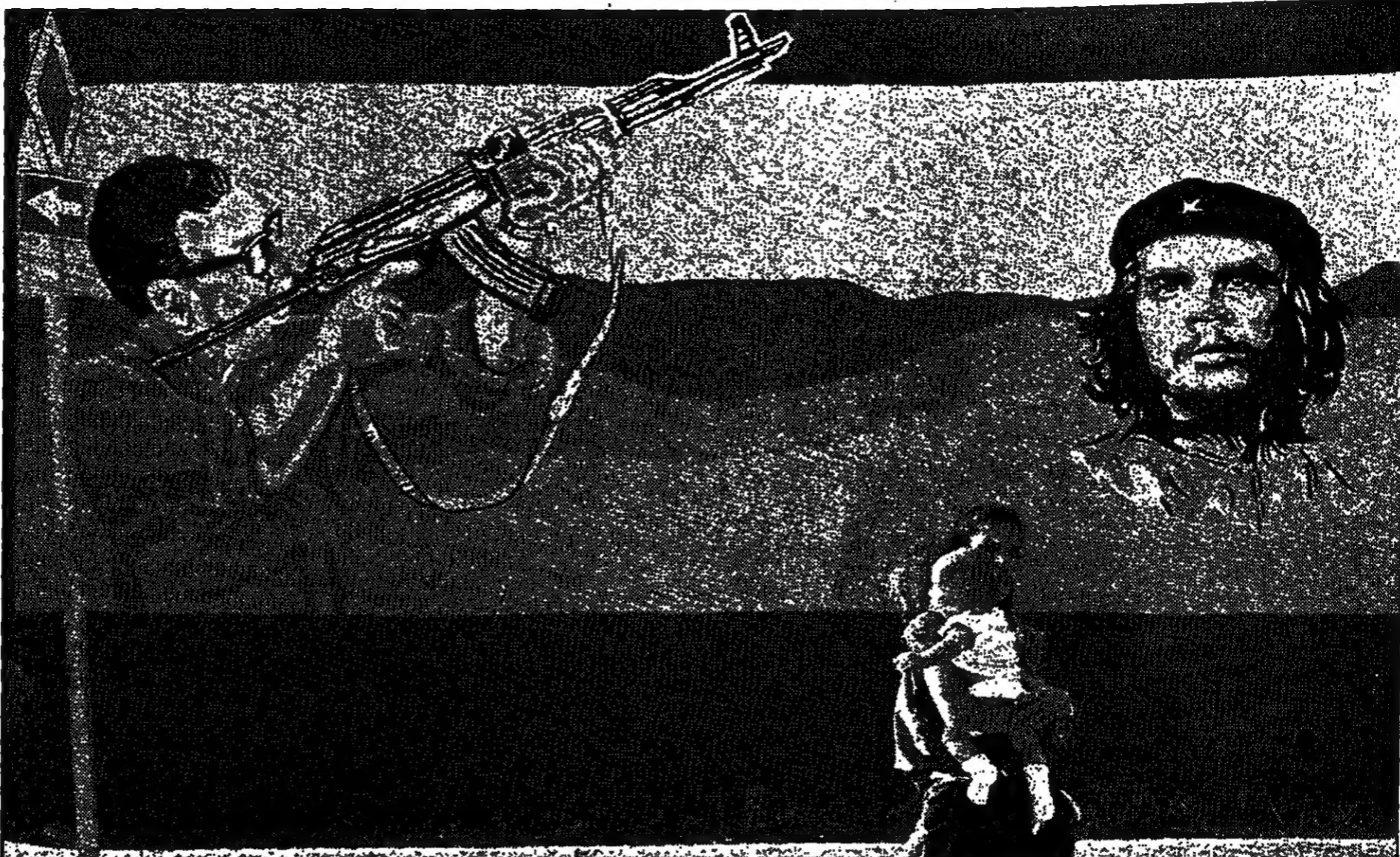
SOUTH AFRICA'S most powerful court yesterday rejected an attempt by the family of the murdered activist Steve Biko to prevent his killers being pardoned if they confess.

Samper proposes 'war tax'

COLOMBIA'S president, Ernesto Samper, said yesterday he will ask the country's congress to approve a one-off 'war tax' to raise \$200 million to fight guerrillas and drug traffickers.

Italian minister beats Greens

ITALY'S former anti-corruption prosecutor, Antonio di Pietro, last night notched up the first big victory of his career as a minister when he won a face-off with the country's Greens.



A woman carries her baby in front of a placard showing Salvador Allende and Che Guevara in Holguin, eastern Cuba. Today is the anniversary of the attack on Moncada which is said to be the start of the Cuban revolution and President Fidel Castro is to address the nation and honour the province for a good sugar harvest

Crash flight 'black boxes' found

Ian Katz in New York

THE impasse in the investigation into the crash of TWA Flight 800 appeared to have been broken yesterday as investigators analysed the tapes from the aircraft's flight recorders.

Ian Katz in New York

spent several hours with the families and he was later expected to announce measures to step up security at United States airports.

Ian Katz in New York

acoustic 'pings' they are supposed to emit following a crash. Divers found them as they examined a pile of wreckage in waters 100ft deep.

New date for war in Vietnam will bring benefits to 300 veterans

Ian Katz in New York

AD ECADES old controversy over when the United States entered the Vietnam war was reignited this week when American lawmakers voted to bring forward by more than two years the starting date of the conflict.

Ian Katz in New York

when American involvement constituted a war, an issue maddled by the absence of any single event comparable to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.



IN THE SHORT TERM THE NEW COMPAQ DESKPRO'S PRICE WILL SAVE YOU MONEY.

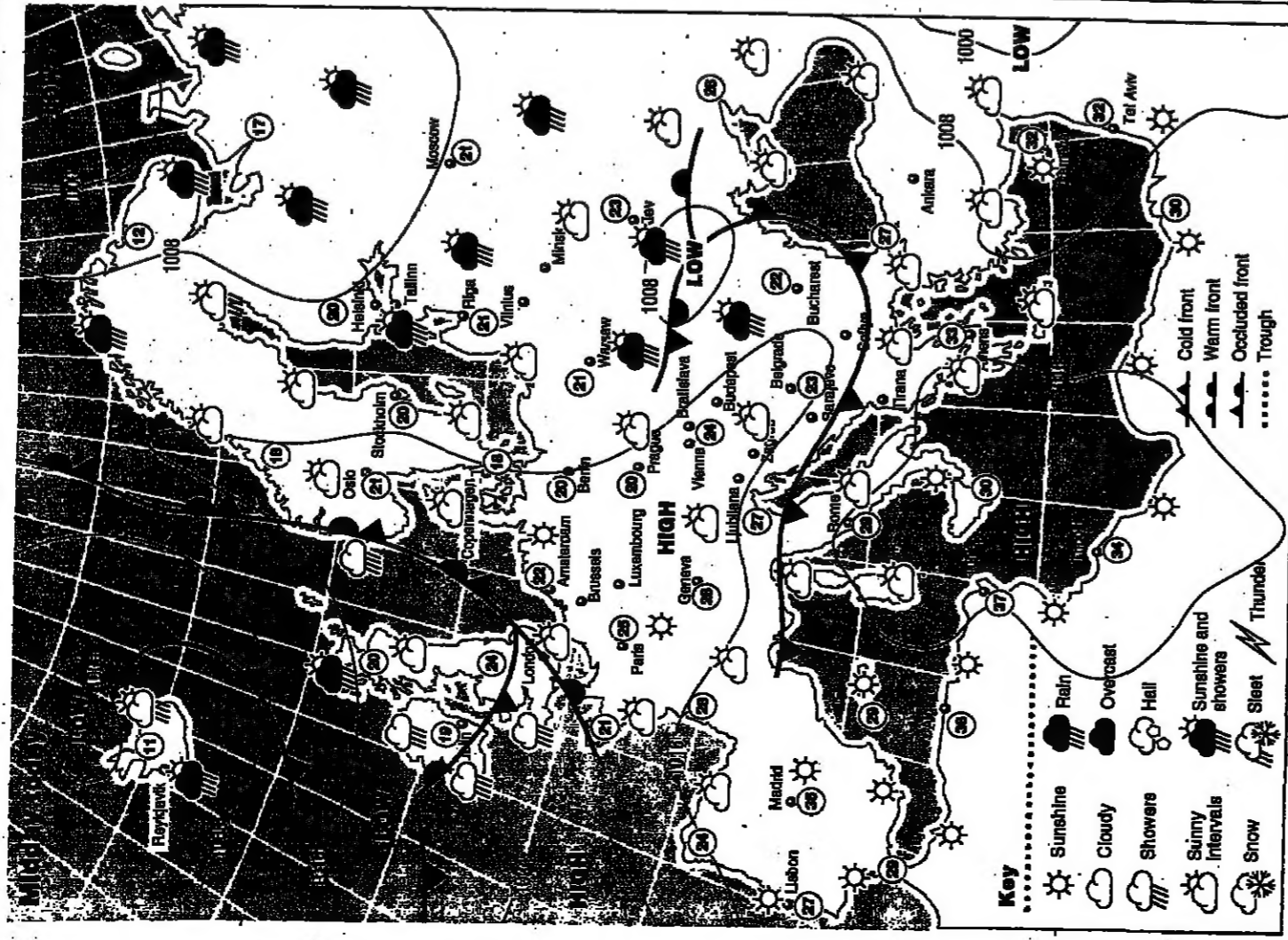
COMPAQ

12 Weather/Television The weather in Europe

Handwritten Arabic text: 1500

12 | Weather/Television

The weather in Europe



Forecast for the cities

Table with columns for city, today's weather, and forecast for the next few days. Cities listed include London, Paris, Rome, Athens, etc.

European weather outlook

An active cold front will push a band of rain steadily across Norway during the day. In the north, the cold front will be on the coast with a squall of heavy showers. Max temp 17-22C.

Television and Radio

BBC 1
7:00pm Business Breakfast, 8:00pm Olympic Highlights, 8:30pm News, 9:00pm Olympic Highlights, 9:30pm News, 10:00pm Olympic Highlights, 10:30pm News, 11:00pm Olympic Highlights, 11:30pm News, 12:00am Olympic Highlights.

BBC 2
7:15pm Open University: Design for Living, 7:45pm News, 8:00pm The Big Breakfast, 8:30pm News, 9:00pm The Big Breakfast, 9:30pm News, 10:00pm The Big Breakfast, 10:30pm News, 11:00pm The Big Breakfast, 11:30pm News, 12:00am The Big Breakfast.

BBC World
6:00pm News, 7:00pm News, 8:00pm News, 9:00pm News, 10:00pm News, 11:00pm News, 12:00am News.

Radio
BBC Radio 1, BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 3, BBC Radio 4, BBC Radio 5, BBC Radio 6, BBC Radio 7, BBC Radio 8, BBC Radio 9, BBC Radio 10, BBC Radio 11, BBC Radio 12, BBC Radio 13, BBC Radio 14, BBC Radio 15, BBC Radio 16, BBC Radio 17, BBC Radio 18, BBC Radio 19, BBC Radio 20, BBC Radio 21, BBC Radio 22, BBC Radio 23, BBC Radio 24, BBC Radio 25, BBC Radio 26, BBC Radio 27, BBC Radio 28, BBC Radio 29, BBC Radio 30, BBC Radio 31, BBC Radio 32, BBC Radio 33, BBC Radio 34, BBC Radio 35, BBC Radio 36, BBC Radio 37, BBC Radio 38, BBC Radio 39, BBC Radio 40, BBC Radio 41, BBC Radio 42, BBC Radio 43, BBC Radio 44, BBC Radio 45, BBC Radio 46, BBC Radio 47, BBC Radio 48, BBC Radio 49, BBC Radio 50, BBC Radio 51, BBC Radio 52, BBC Radio 53, BBC Radio 54, BBC Radio 55, BBC Radio 56, BBC Radio 57, BBC Radio 58, BBC Radio 59, BBC Radio 60, BBC Radio 61, BBC Radio 62, BBC Radio 63, BBC Radio 64, BBC Radio 65, BBC Radio 66, BBC Radio 67, BBC Radio 68, BBC Radio 69, BBC Radio 70, BBC Radio 71, BBC Radio 72, BBC Radio 73, BBC Radio 74, BBC Radio 75, BBC Radio 76, BBC Radio 77, BBC Radio 78, BBC Radio 79, BBC Radio 80, BBC Radio 81, BBC Radio 82, BBC Radio 83, BBC Radio 84, BBC Radio 85, BBC Radio 86, BBC Radio 87, BBC Radio 88, BBC Radio 89, BBC Radio 90, BBC Radio 91, BBC Radio 92, BBC Radio 93, BBC Radio 94, BBC Radio 95, BBC Radio 96, BBC Radio 97, BBC Radio 98, BBC Radio 99, BBC Radio 100.

Arts page 4

Stepping out: why our best ballerinas want to make movies

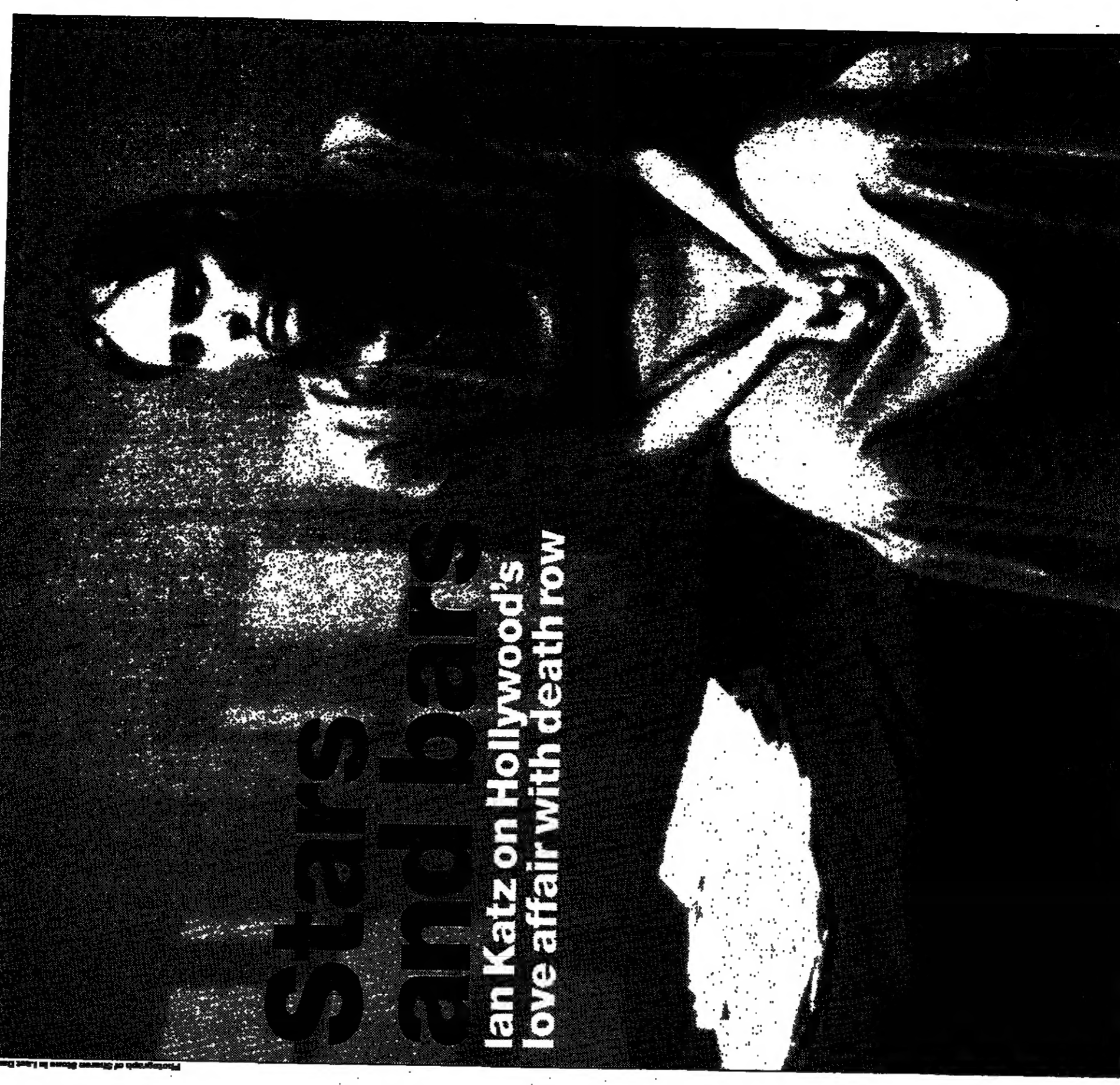
Music page 6

Ring of truth: Michael Tanner says it's OK to like Wagner

Books page 8

Rebel without applause: myths behind the James Dean legend

The Guardian International Review



Stars bars and Ian Katz on Hollywood's love affair with death row

Stars bars and Ian Katz on Hollywood's love affair with death row. The article discusses the fascination of Hollywood with the theme of capital punishment, mentioning films like 'The Execution' and 'The Thin Red Line'.

Handwritten note: July 29 1995

America is in a hanging mood. The majority of the nation is right behind capital punishment. But Hollywood's new movies and their directors are against the death penalty. Ian Katz on life versus art

# Pictures at an execution

ON THE morning of August 14, 1986, 10,000 people packed the tiny Kentucky town of Owensboro to watch Rayley Beaton hang for murder. Little is recorded about the crime, but we know that lawyers at the execution sold popcorn and hotdogs, and spectators climbed trees and telephone poles around the gallows. Within moments of the trap-door opening, reported a correspondent, "anger hands lowered at the black death hood" dripping off pieces as souvenirs.

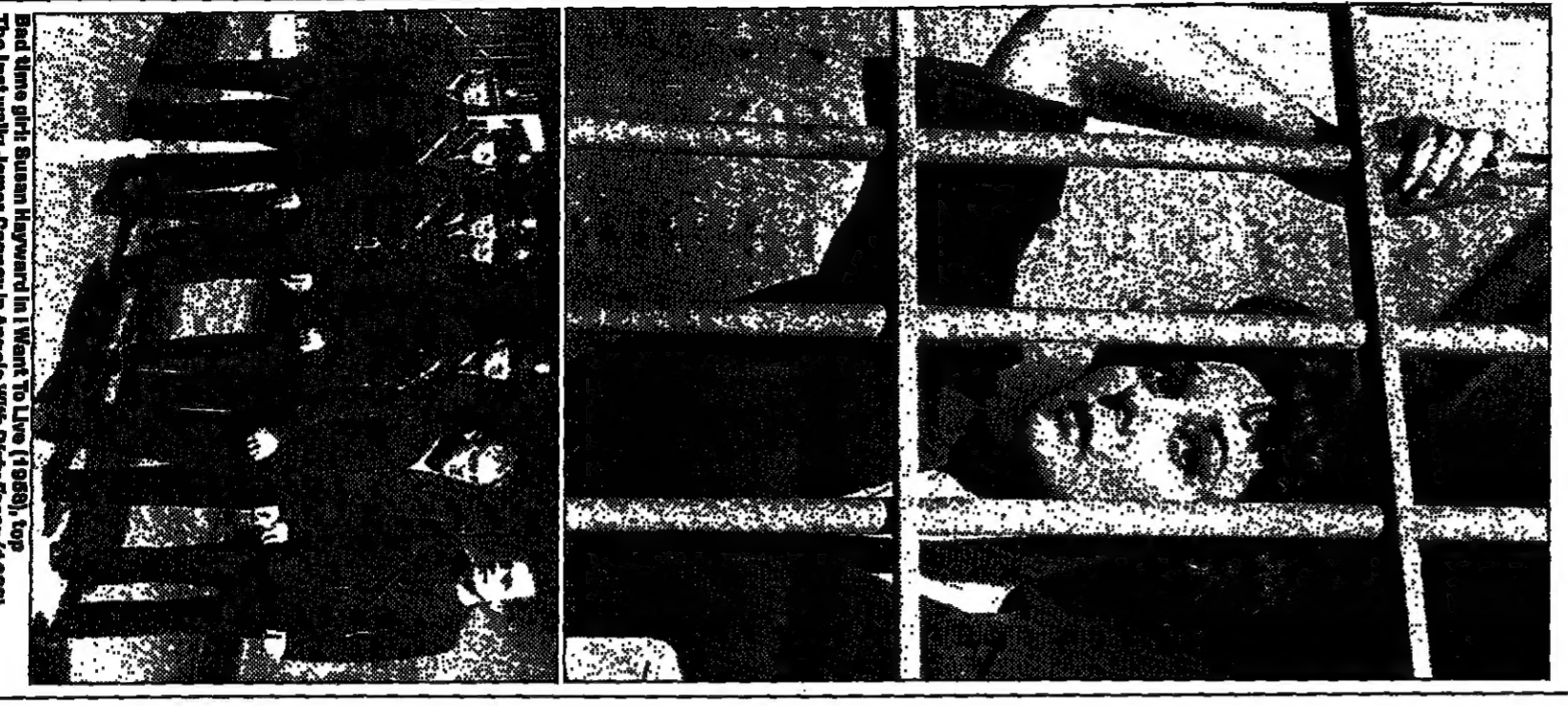
The unseen members of the Beaton hanging persuaded American law-makers to abolish public execution; British had ended it more than 60 years earlier. Through 800 people managed to procure a pass for a hanging this month later, almost all executed in the US since have been carried out under strictly limited public scrutiny. Only a few reporters, dignitaries and witnesses selected by the condemned attend judicial killings that take place now almost every week. What they see is closely controlled, and recording and photography are strictly forbidden.

But Americans have secretly been deprived of death chamber drama. Hollywood provides the next best thing. Tim Robbins's brilliant *Dead Man Walking* offers a closer view of an execution than any spectator had at Rayley Beaton's hanging. We didn't just see Matthew Foxcelot being put to death, we saw him sweat through his last hours. A few months later Sharon Stone was offering another, albeit less compelling, tour of death row in Bruce Beresford's *Last Dance*, released in Britain next month. A film version of John Grisham's capital punishment pot-boiler, *The Chamber*, follows soon.

Robbins and Beresford would resent the implications that their productions satisfy the same appetites as public executions. Both films are against the death penalty. Last *Dance* less subtly so than *Dead Man Walking*. They depict death row rituals in detail only to convey the stultified horror of judicial killing. They both believe Americans support capital punishment as an abstract idea — but if Americans know what it really means, they would change their views.

Hollywood may be going through a spasms of moral agonising about capital punishment, but there is little evidence that the American public is swinging accordingly. The US is in a hanging mood. Polls consistently show support for the death penalty at 80 per cent and the few politicians opposing it, like former New York Governor Mario Cuomo, have been kicked out of office or forced to resign. Executions were inaugurated nearly for the first decade after the US Supreme Court lifted its ban on capital punishment in 1976. Now they are a commonplace, and scarcely war-torn, more than a paragraph or two.

Last year 39 people were executed in the US, the most in any single year since 1967. The total will be higher this year. But if the anti-death penalty campaigners had hoped that swift conveyor-belt judicial killing would make Americans reconsider their position, they were disappointed. Most Americans actually feel death sentences are not carried out quickly enough. Responding to the public frustration with the delay, harsh and costly appeals system that can keep death row inmates alive for up to 15 years, Republican law-makers have ended funding for the lawyers and shortened the appeals process.



discussions between Hollywood's view and the rest of America is unappealing. This is one of those issues that a number of people in the entertainment industry feel generally passionate about, and the entertainment industry, rather, enjoys the pose of defying public opinion.

Wendy Lesser, the author of *Pictures at an Execution* (Harvard University Press), a study of America's preoccupation with murder, also writes against drawing conclusions from the films. She says the audience for "these movies, especially movies with Sharon Stone in them, don't necessarily indicate what's going on politically. It has to do with how people want to spend their night."

The current films are just the latest in a genre which goes back even beyond the 1986 James Cagney classic *Angels with Dirty Faces*. Most fit into two categories. There is the innocent man or woman wrongly condemned — as parodied in the film-within-a-film in Robert Altman's *The Player*. Two Hollywood aspirants pitch an idea to the Tim Robbins character — they want to make a death row drama called *Habeas Corpus* about a prosecutor who finds out at the last moment that he has sent an innocent woman to her death. He races to the gas chamber but arrives too late. The woman is executed, played by Richard E. Grant. The woman is dead. Because that's the reality. The innocent die. But reality ends at the studio gates. When we eventually see the onscreen version of *Habeas Corpus*, the prosecutor dashes down the corridor to the death chamber just as the gas pallid is released. He smashes a window and pulls her to freedom. And the young duo's plea that the film should have no stars has been ignored: the prosecutor is Julia Roberts, "what about the way she's acting in *Chicago*?," replies the already cynical young director.

The Broadway comedy *The Front Page*, put on film in 1920, parallels his *Chi* Friday in 1940 and *Remains Behind* in 1966, is a comic variation on the theme: a reporter on a last assignment must get the story before an innocent is put to death. Not all the innocents survive of course. Even Hollywood can have on-screen deaths who really look like last walk. In a film called *Watt* (1986), based on the life and death of a San Francisco prostitute unconvincingly convicted of murder, Sharon Hayward goes to the gas chamber despite evidence suggesting that she has been framed. (Not that Hollywood minders, she got an Oscar.)

The 1991 British film, *Let Him Have It*, also cast doubt on the guilt of a condemned man, focusing on the long-dolby question of what the reacting Bentley meant when he yelled "Let him have it" to his young accomplice, Christopher. Crude Prosecutors who had caught them breaking into a factory Bentley — and later Crude — said he had meant Crude should give up his weapon. Both youths were convicted of murder but, because he was only 16, Crude received a life sentence. Bentley was hanged.

And then girl Susan Hayward in *Watt* (1986), top and then James Cagney in *Angels With Dirty Faces* (1936)

**HOWEVER** these films are anti-death penalty, they rely on the premise that their hero or heroine should not be executed — they do not directly question the morality or effectiveness of capital punishment. Like the lawyers who protest the innocence of particular death row inmates, their contribution on the issue of guilt or innocence hinges on the death penalty might be acceptable if the conviction was sound.

But the other category challenges our feelings about judicial killing. In *Angels With Dirty Faces*, there is never any question of Rocky Sullivan's guilt, but the James Cagney character is substantially attracted to some violence to feel uneasy when he is summarily strangled to the chair. In the 1982 *Nova* documentary *Not Assassins*, the guilt of the condemned man is not questioned, but director André Cayatte wants the audience to feel the brutality of the gallows.

Both *Dead Man Walking* and *Last Dance* are in this category, though it does Robbins no favours to mention his film in the same sentence as Beresford's hackneyed effort. In *Dead Man Walking*, Sean Penn plays the arrogant, manipulative racist who murdered two teenage lovers. Robbins shows us enough of his crime and his consequences to make us despise him, yet enough of his humanity and the death ritual to feel compassion for the execution. Robbins creates the perfect case for the capital punishment debate: are you prepared to put to death?

In *Last Dance*, Sharon Stone's character, Cindy Liggett, is more sympathetic but just as guilty. She helped kill a young couple while high on drugs and under the influence of a boyfriend. Twelve years later,

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The purpose of these Fellowships is to give postdoctoral scientists who have recently decided to re-enter research in the field of Basic Biomedical Science a period of respite in which they can plan a return to research. Awards can be made for a period of up to two years.

**COMPUTER CROSSWORD No. 8188**  
Across  
1 Unprecedented  
2 Youth (9)  
3 Flower or garden (4)  
4 Empty tomb (6)  
5 What (6)  
6 North American (10)  
7 Per of speech (8)  
8 Newness (9)  
9 Label by Tolstoy (4, 4)  
10 Fair, often blue (4)  
11 Succumb to (10)  
12 Down  
13 Famine and status (4, 4)  
14 Limb of tree (8)  
15 Pain of parting (6)  
16 Close (4)

**Quick Crossword No. 8188**  
Down  
1 Famine and status (4, 4)  
2 Youth (9)  
3 Flower or garden (4)  
4 Empty tomb (6)  
5 What (6)  
6 North American (10)  
7 Per of speech (8)  
8 Newness (9)  
9 Label by Tolstoy (4, 4)  
10 Fair, often blue (4)  
11 Succumb to (10)  
12 Down  
13 Famine and status (4, 4)  
14 Limb of tree (8)  
15 Pain of parting (6)  
16 Close (4)

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**Doonebury**  
BY GARRY TRIDEAL  
ANNING: 'AS THE BEST OF THE TYPING...'  
GAIN LET THE BEST...  
ALL YOU CAN WIN SOME...  
HITPOSEXUALS...  
CIGARETTE SMOKING...  
GO YOU NEED...  
THE TO THINK...  
ALREADY...  
UNIVERSITY...  
SEGMENT





Judith Mackrell on the ballet stars who cover second careers

# Where does a ballerina turn when the lights go dim?

**F**IFTEEN YEARS ago, when Motra Shearer was ordered to make her international debut, she spent 18 months trying to turn. And now, she has said, "was the last thing I wanted to do, I thought for a year to get away from that. I'm."

Shearer, a 26-year-old ballerina, is the latest in a long line of dancers who have turned to other careers. Shearer herself has been a successful television presenter and a successful singer. She is now a successful actor.

How many now would play Shearer's number? In Hollywood, there are a great many. In Britain, there are a few. In the States, there are a great many. In the States, there are a great many.



No kind of decadent James Dean, cowboy capitalist

## Jimmy the Kid

Robert: The Life and Legend of James Dean by Donald Spoto 306pp, HarperCollins, £18 Jonathan Romney

HE WAS "not an extraordinary person in real life," James Dean's biographer said. "If anything, he was rather ordinary." In fact, Dean emerged from Donald Spoto's biography as an extraordinarily bold, rebellious, and even more than a little bit of a trouble maker. Spoto's title promises another overnight blockbuster, but by the end there's a rather different picture. What emerges is a talented, but deeply flawed, young actor with a severe case of what Edna Ferber called "success poisoning". His professional behaviour wasn't so much recklessly self-destructive as just plain counterproductive.

Dean sounds like he needed a good deal of help. It's the picture that's been painted by the legend, propagated by Kenneth Anger and others, of the "Rebel Without a Cause" rebel with a cause. "You might expect more of the same from Spoto who produced Hal Ashby's *Harsh Voice* and *Deliverance*. He's a bit of a rascal. But he's a real rascal. He's a real rascal. He's a real rascal. He's a real rascal.

Dean's life seems to have been a series of failures. He was in love with a girl who was in love with someone else. He was in love with someone else who was in love with someone else. He was in love with someone else who was in love with someone else.

## Little Winston's father

His Father's Son: The Life of Randolph Churchill by Winston Churchill Nicholson, £20 Julian Critchley

THE Churchill family, drunk or sober, is one of the country's most profitable estates. The Great Britain, who would not hurt a fly unless it was stinging, actually told the truth, and thereby changed the nature of all obituaries. Their motto is now "wars and all".

It was, so I discovered, Michael Foot, who wrote Randolph Churchill's obituary in the *Times*. He wrote, "Choke the mouth". Michael, who would not hurt a fly unless it was stinging, actually told the truth, and thereby changed the nature of all obituaries.

## Paperbacks

Nicholas Lazarus  
Conversations of an Ivy League Bookie, by Peter Aaron (Athens, £7.95)

Three-life story which begins with a young man who is a member of the Ivy League. He is a member of the Ivy League. He is a member of the Ivy League. He is a member of the Ivy League.

stand why this man is thought to be funny, and how a "comic genius" (Stendhal's *Trauerspiel*). One man only has so much of a sense of humor. He has a sense of humor. He has a sense of humor. He has a sense of humor.

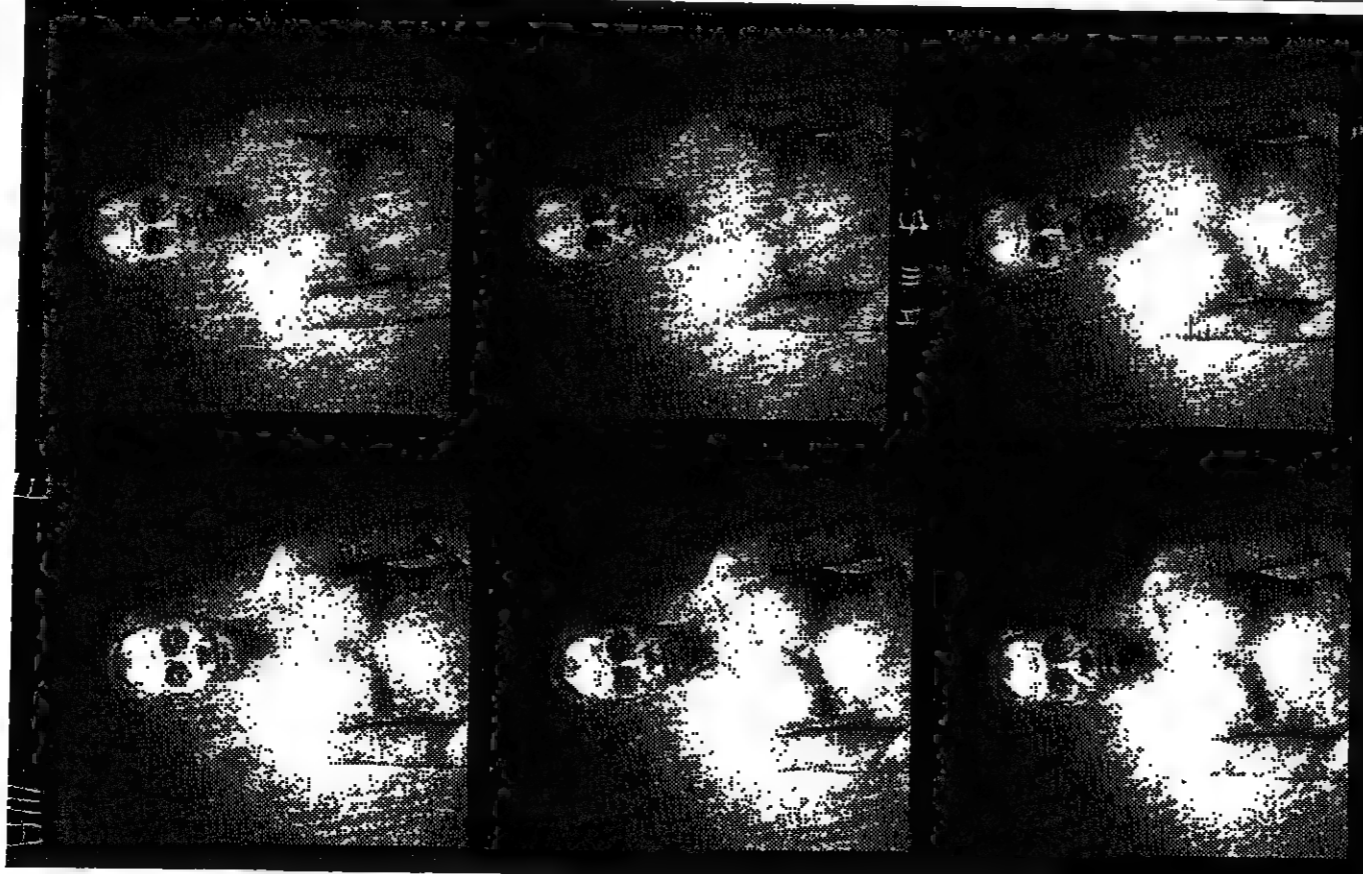
Very welcome addition to the Penguin Classics series, even though some of the prefaces seem demagogic. When people complain that obituaries have gone to the dogs, they are perhaps forgetting how long it has taken to get to a sentence like "No attribute of a substance can be truly connected from which it follows that the substance can be identified by any other means." The best book ever written about a man.

20155

# BOOKS

He was on the shelf with the Modern Masters, like Wittgenstein and Freud. But who reads R D Laing, author of *The Divided Self*, now?

## Fear in the family



He wanted 'an entry into some forms of human suffering that the ordinary person is excluded from: extreme physical wreckage and death'

**The Wing of Madness: The Life and Work of R D Laing**  
by Daniel Burston  
275pp, Harvard University Press, £21.95

**R D Laing: A Divided Self**  
by John Clay  
308pp, Hodder & Stoughton, £20

**Harriet Stewart**

IT IS often said that true doctors prefer the company of their patients to that of their colleagues, and psychiatrists prefer those who are mentally ill to those who are not. One of the projects of the psychiatrist R D Laing (*Sanity, Madness and the Family*) investigated the families of schizophrenic "normal" families. Although Laing did some useful research into the behaviour of the former, he was unable to stomach the latter.

"Interviewing the normal family was a more gruelling experience than speaking with the families of schizophrenics. They were just so dead and stiff and, at the same time, it was very hard to describe what the deadening was. So it was difficult to say what the difference between the two was, except that in the normal family nobody cracked up."

It was because of his hostility to normality that Laing was, in the 1960s and 1970s, the only psychiatrist of whom many people had heard. He became a guru after the publication of his most famous books, *The Divided Self*, *Sanity, Madness and the Family* and *The Politics of Experience*. Once a Frontana Modern Master, leading the shelves, Laing now seems more of a historical curiosity than an intellectual pioneer. John Clay's *A Divided Self* and Daniel Burston's *The Wing of Madness* seek to show why he was one of the most controversial psychiatrists of the 20th century.

Both describe all that was not normal about Laing's upbringing. He was born in Glasgow in 1927, an only child. Barely his parents ceased all sexual activity, ages before his conception. His mother concealed her pregnancy from her family until the day of his birth. Her odd behaviour continued into Laing's childhood. She would sometimes take him on elaborate detours through Glasgow, in order to avoid prominent buildings and hold him in her arms. "The neighbourhood could not gain information about the family. Until he was 13, Laing shared a room with his mother, while his father was relegated to a small back room, known within the

family as the "dog kennel". His father did not pay or receive calls, and Laing described first going to school as an "absolutely ecstatic experience". He went on to win a scholarship to grammar school, and a place at Glasgow medical school. Laing decided to read medicine, because he thought that it would give him "an entry into some forms of human suffering that the ordinary person is excluded from: extreme physical wreckage and death".

Laing's early medical experiences were brutalising and are well depicted in Clay's and Burston's accounts, which both rely on Laing's own memoir, *Wisdom, Madness and Reality*.

Observing medical students and doctors toughening themselves against the distress of others, he began to criticise a system of medical care that distanced itself from the patients' pain and anxiety. In his own practice, he was compassionate for his empathic relationships with patients. He tried to enter the worlds of schizophrenics in order to communicate with them.

Laing described a psychiatric unit at Gartnavel Hospital near Glasgow in the 1950s. Sixty women were housed in an "intractable ward". They were allowed no personal possessions of any kind — no underwear, no socks, no cosmetics, no books... Baths were on order — about once a week

Photograph by

you'd be stripped, put in a bath, scrubbed very hard, dried and put back into your dress...

Laing embarked on an experiment. Twelve women were taken to a special room each day which had been freshly decorated and provided with books, magazines and rugs. They were allowed to wear shoes and make-up and to have their hair done. Vastly popular with the patients, it soon became known by all concerned as "The Rumpus Room". Communication between patients and staff, previously discouraged as inciting psychosis, was greatly improved.

After their allotted time, the patients had improved so much that they were discharged. Although one of them was back in hospital one year after the experiment, Laing had shown that it was possible to treat mentally ill patients with more humanity "would psychiatrists, were they ill, want to be admitted to their own ward?" was his characteristic challenge.

Burston's elegant account of these early years has a measured thoughtfulness, alongside which Clay's chattering style suffers. Clay comes into his own in his description of Laing's later attempt to found a community Kingsley Hall, in which mentally ill people could live in harmony in the company of therapists. Here no restrictive doctor-patient relationship would obstruct genuine communication and people would be able to come and go as they pleased. A psychotic breakdown was seen as an existential crisis from which an individual could reach a more authentic way of being, rather than a physical illness treatable with drugs.

The therapists living at Kingsley Hall were for the most part Laing's acolytes, young Americans keen to test out his theories. Free expression was the rule. Formal social greetings were frowned upon and tasks like shopping and cleaning were neglected. The ideal of open access and shared property was often difficult to sustain. Kingsley Hall became a mess for hippies, junkies and visiting celebrities.

Although at times Clay becomes carried away by his unwinning certainty about Laing's thoughts and feelings, he conjures a particular period in history with aplomb. He describes, rather realistically I suspect, the world of Hampstead houses, taking LSD and sharing homes with new partners plus the sex- and drug-fueled, the resultant and disney evidence provided yet more opportunity for free expression.

*The Wing of Madness* is the more scholarly and articulate book, concerned as much with Laing's work as with the life. Yet even Burston has difficulty in drawing a legacy from Laing's work. Thirty-six years after the publication of *The Divided Self*, psychiatrists have found psychological models of schizophrenia more convincing than environmental ones.

Laing indeed cast himself as a visionary, who was doomed by a spurned and misunderstood by his peers. Ironically his vision was itself an odd one: that by the mere exercise of the therapist's understanding and humanity a person might be cured.

Harriet Stewart is a doctor at Glasgow Cross Hospital.

What do when you hang up your pumps

you'd been injured, but leaving the Royal Ballet was traumatic. You've been indoctrinated for so long. I went to the school of Patrick Reynolds, one of the best glass makers in the 1970s, then to art school. I was lucky. No one respects your old career. They all think you've been pampered about in a tub, but Patrick was wonderfully theatrical."

**WILLIAM PERRIE, COMMERCIAL ENTOMOLOGIST (below)**  
"I joined the London Festival Ballet in 1959 and was a soloist before joining the Royal Ballet. There was an unwritten rule that you should make way for younger dancers and retire at 35, unless you were a particular favourite. Stepping down was very traumatic. Before the theatre I'd been a zoological technician at University College, London and had done an apprenticeship at a butterfly farm in Kent. Entomology was the only thing I could think of that I was qualified to do."

**SALLY POWELL, SOLICITOR**  
"I was with Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet. I left at 28 because of a spinal injury. I had stopped my education at 16, and wanted to myself I had the ability to teach something academic. I chose law at university because I'd been an union rep at the ballet company. I wanted to study a subject that would make people think I knew something — as a dancer I was always told I didn't know about anything but ballet."

**HERVÉ STAMMER, STAINED GLASS MAKER**  
money flooding around make these offers increasingly alluring. Today's top-earning dancers make far more than Pavarotti or Shearer ever did — around £50,000 a year for a star company member. Higher for a freelance like Graham. But these sums look like peanuts when Demi Moore gets \$12.5 million for one movie. Christy Turlington can earn \$2 million for 12 days' modelling, and football stars are being offered £8 million. Great dancers are often as beautiful as models, nearly always more talented than film actresses and harder working than footballers. They would have to be saints not to feel underpaid for what they do, nor to be tempted by the lure of movie dollars.

Bussell admits dancers today "are more worldly", though she is adamant that she and her peers are no less dedicated to their art. Mason agrees: "These are rare talents, who are absolutely professional about their work, they don't value it any less." Bussell herself, after falling to the role in Sabrina, made a decision to lead off several other, less desirable acting offers and concentrate on her dancing — "It's what is most important to me at the moment," she says. She also insists that money isn't her main concern, yet like Duranto and Guilliam, she signed up with an agency which consistently checks out career opportunities, and if a fabulous role comes up, Bussell will certainly

retired early (around their late thirties), although there have been famous exceptions like Poincy, Shiley and Maharova, who have managed to remain stars long after their physical prime. At present, the average age of competing young women is getting younger and younger. Given the vogue for baby young athletes, it's no wonder some dancers are feeling the need to strike out alternative careers while still at their peak.

Darcy Bussell certainly does. "Technically things are much more of a strain now, the demands are physically more exhausting and we have a lot of young, strong dancers coming up behind us. If like me and you, you've done a lot while very young, what's the point of hanging your head when you hear about dancers getting hip replacements. You wonder, if you're cracking up at 27, what's it going to be like later. You don't want to lose your quality of life."

Monika Mason, assistant artistic director of the Royal Ballet, does not believe Bussell and Duranto's worries are entirely new. "Dancers have always had dreams of going into film and directing beautiful dancers," she says. "They've always had to plan for what they'll do when they retire. She thinks it's just that these things weren't discussed in public so much."

Mason does acknowledge that the temptations to take up outside work are more pressing, the financial stakes higher. The media no longer regard dancers as otherworldly princesses but as expensively perisodically like rock and opera stars. Guilliam does remark on the fact that Bussell, who is constantly badgered by TV, has been on French and Ant. Stammer. And the sums of

people felt very old. The ex-Artist and discoverer of Jimi Hendrix was 57, but the survivors of much older. Mind you, anyone who tried to round up Chandler's old mates through the membership year of the British Association of Music felt even older than most. The million was sympathetic, and endlessly helpful. Eric Burdon and Alan Price? "Are they musicians? I haven't got an Alan Price who plays the piano. Does he play any other instrument?" Mr Price was eventually fingered through his nodding acquaintance with the Hammond organ. Arts facts decided not to ask if they had a contact number for his amazing dancing hour? (Famously returns next week)

**TELEVISION Nancy Banks-Smith**

## The strange case of Dr Tumblety

**THE PERSON** most likely to kill you is yourself. Your chances of being murdered by the heir to the throne, the Masons, a Jewish dwarf, a Russian spy or a Polish bigamist are, probably, remote. They have all been accused of being Jack the Ripper and a bookmaker would take your money on any one of them with a song in his heart.

**Serial History: The White Chapel Murders (Channel 4)**  
Whitechapel, London, The New York World got a lively letter, let alone about his collection of wounds. He was a high-profile man who died in his bed not well by name. There was a reference to whatever to connect that to any murder. The producers, Jack Tumblety, who spent his days in flighty judicial whims, would normally make short work of such a trivial matter. As they say in the East End, "Be over" Much the most plausible candidate, advanced recently in a couple of books, is someone so obvious you track with the track.

Joseph Barnett, who lived with Mary Kelly, the last victim, said: "I used to buy newspapers and read her all the details of the Ripper murders." Did the "Indict" Kelly was not like the other victims. They were ageing, dying decrepitude, she was young, handsome and three months pregnant, probably by Barnett.

The murders started as soon as she knew she was pregnant. What would be the effect of four women she knew being slaughtered? It would keep her off the street. And who wanted that and why? Six weeks bobbing with the rent, she went slithering and was savagely slaughtered. Then the murders stopped. Barnett was the child mourner.

The second most likely person to kill you is the one closest to you.

take time away from ballet to do it. Mason worries that "big acts" like Bussell's green test "can may try to pursue acting careers without realising just how different film and theatre are from ballet. Duranto, Guilliam and Bussell are unlike artists, who convey piercingly elegant images through their faces and bodies, but their art is silent, they aren't skilled at using their voices. Mason cites a young dancer who recently moved from the Royal to drama school. "It was very hard for her to stop thinking about her body — which has been her way of expressing herself since she was a child — and start using her voice."

In fact, very few dancers have become stars in other fields. Jim Francis, the TV actress is a rarity, and she left the Royal Ballet early, invalided out of the corps. Usually when dancers have had acting triumphs it has been in dance-linked roles — Christopher Gable in *The Boyfriend*, Makarova in *On Your Toes*, Sliester in *The Red Shoes*.

When Mikhail Baryshnikov received an Oscar nomination, it was for the dance movie *The Turning Point*. And, although he also got rave reviews in Steven Soderbergh's *Metamorphosis*, it was in a role requiring special physical dexterity. Baryshnikov never did go to Hollywood. And Bussell, too, is realistic about her chances, accepting that the invitation to test for Sabrina was her confidence to try again when the time is right. She is clearly not going to wait many more years. "The worst thing would be to hang on too long, become too old and too scared to go for it. Even if I try something that's a flop, I'll regret it if I hadn't done it, if I hadn't taken the risk."

What's the point of hanging around just to watch your career fizzling out?

than footballers. They would have to be saints not to feel underpaid for what they do, nor to be tempted by the lure of movie dollars.

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Dr Tumblety

# Music



### Wagner has been accused of megalomania, womanising and providing the soundtrack for the Third Reich. Michael Tanner says it is now time to separate his personal defects from his musical brilliance

# Don't mention the Wagner

**W**HAT IS it about Richard Wagner that makes him, 113 years after his death, still so widely regarded as a great composer? The answer would be "everything," but it would not be quite right, for no one — no serious musician — any longer doubts that his place among the great composers is secure.

## THEY LOVED HIM...

He died in a performance of *Parsifal* which set him the goal of absolute power.

## THEY HATED HIM...

He thought *The Ring* one of the most beautiful operas ever composed in the history of the art.

He thought *The Ring* one of the most beautiful operas ever composed in the history of the art.

In the *Times* of July 13 1938, the critic Barry Millington, a leading exponent of Wagner, proclaimed his admiration for "the revealing, the dark underside of the opera." In a short, "Millington writes, 'The opera is the artistic counterpart of the ideological crusade launched by Wagner in the 1840s & 1850s to purge Germany of its decadence, its alien elements and its Jewishness'."

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He thought *The Ring* one of the most beautiful operas ever composed in the history of the art.

But Wagner is not unloved. In the artistic community Wagner never behaved with such extravagance as he did in the 1840s, to his father-in-law or so dishonestly as he was to his publishers. But though Beckwith's biographers tend to depict the irrational behavior they never seem to find that it was in question the greatness of *Parsifal*, the *Meistersinger* or the *Ninth Symphony*.

So what is an unloved Wagner? There is the impression that his various unattractive traits — some of which are congenial with his music — are of a man who is a special part. It is thought to be a special part of Wagner, not the whole Wagner. It is thought to be a special part of Wagner, not the whole Wagner.

That Wagner is not unloved is a fact. He was loved by many, and his music is loved by many. He was loved by many, and his music is loved by many.

## Classical CDs of the week: Bruckner

**Symphony No 0** (Chicago Symphony) SHAI (DG) £12.99  
**Bruckner Symphony No 6** (NDR Sinfonieorchester) WAND (DG) £12.99  
**Symphonies 0-5** (Symphony in F Major) Frankfurt Radio Symphony/Label (DG) £56.99  
The century of Bruckner's death falls in October and the tributes are already beginning to accumulate. Both in the tubas are already beginning to accumulate.

...into the orchestral...  
...the composer...  
...the very first...  
...the composer...  
...the very first...  
...the composer...

### Classical cd releases

Schumann: Piano Concerto for Symphony No 2  
Sibelius: Orchestral Suite Opus 44  
Sibelius: Helsinki Festival Concerto  
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A broken bust of the Soviet Union's founder, Lenin, lies in a rubbish tip in the war-ruined Chechen capital, Grozny, yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: GLEB GARANICH

## Prosecutors appointed 'to protect Chirac'

Paul Webster in Paris

FRENCH opposition leaders yesterday condemned the appointment of two senior prosecutors by the Gaullist-led government, claiming that they had been chosen to stifle scandals threatening the president, Jacques Chirac.

dubious housing transactions by the Paris city council when the president was mayor. A member of the Gaullist RPR, Mr Benmakhlof was appointed as an aide to the justice minister, Jacques Toubon — a former secretary-general of the Gaullist party — after Mr Chirac's election win last year. Mr Benmakhlof has now been attached to a Paris high court which will decide whether a number of leading figures — including the

mayor of Paris, Jean Tiberi — should be prosecuted for alleged fraud connected with the financing of Mr Chirac's election campaign. Mr Benmakhlof's immediate superior will be the appeal court's new prosecutor-general, François Burgelin, who was recently involved in clearing the prime minister, Alain Juppé, of allegations that he solicited cheap council housing to his family. As Mr Toubon is a Paris city councillor as well as jus-

tics minister, the Socialist Party accused the government of "stubbornly pursuing the establishment of an RPR state". The opposition recalled that the Paris prosecutor, Gabriel Bestard — another RPR sympathiser — had recently shelved moves to prosecute Mr Tiberi for illegally spending about £200,000 of council money on renovating a flat for his son. Judges and lawyers backed Socialist accusations that the entire prosecuting hierarchy

was now occupied by pro-government officials and thus contradicted promises made by Mr Chirac to defend the judiciary's independence. The leftwing Syndicat de la Magistrature said the postings amounted to an attempt to ensure government control over scandals that threatened the RPR and Paris city hall. The government action was seen as a response to an anti-corruption campaign by examining magistrates investigating the RPR.

## Icy reception for blacks in Finland

Jonas Henley in Helsinki

JAMES was not looking for trouble. Sitting at the nightclub bar, he saw the white guys attack the two Somalis and watched, horrified, as the bouncers joined in with kicks and punches. Then they turned on him — "Hey, nigga" — and he was out on the pavement with the Somalis. Badly bruised, he was off work for two weeks.

Noor was wheeling his baby daughter down the street one afternoon last summer. Four or five men appeared out of nowhere saying "nigger this, nigger that, you're taking our money, you're stealing our women. Then one of the men pulled his little girl out of the pushchair by her hair.

Aisha has had white girls spit in her face. Rachid can't remember how often he's been hit. Redouan was put in hospital by two skinheads, and then lost the court case. Paula, a white girl married to a black man, remembers the middle-aged woman who helped lift her pram into the bus, then dropped it and swore when she saw the baby's colour.

Emerging from 800 years of foreign occupation and half a century of cold war isolation, Finland has become a European Union newcomer, is not finding it easy to welcome foreigners, particularly those whose skin colour is different from the Swedes, Russians and Estonians who make up the majority of its 5.1 million inhabitants. "It's terrible," said James, aged 36, a dance teacher from London. "I thought these attitudes had died 30 years ago. They stare at you, they shout at you from cars, they assume you're a refugee. When they're drunk, they're un-

believable. In the end there's nowhere you can go except home." Dana, a tall 21-stone body-builder and former Chicago policeman, said he is "paranoid as hell". He lives in a neat Helsinki flat with his Finnish wife, Minna, and baby son. "I'm big, but when they're drunk I'm their worst nightmare come true. They have to fight or they're not Finnish men."

Finland has experienced little of the organised racial violence that has made headlines in Sweden and Germany. But, said Dana, black people face a climate of mistrust and ignorance.

"People just stare, all the

'They stare at you, they shout at you from cars and when they're drunk, they're unbelievable'

time, then look away when you catch their eyes," he said. "And their comments! That's what finally gets you. I had a friend who was at the zoo with his family. A little Finnish kid came up and licked his hand — like to see what it was made of."

There are about 10,000 or 12,000 black immigrants in Finland out of a total population of 5.1 million, said Hauge Valma, head of the recently established European Union Migrants Forum in Helsinki. "Blacks have the hardest time," he said. "The country was effectively closed after the war, it was a very hard life here, and the Finns are worried for their jobs, their women — you name it."

Mr Valma, a leading member of Finland's 10,000-strong Romany community, believes the government is complacent and contributes to the problem. "There is structural racism in Finland, it runs right through the bureaucracy," he said. "Romanies have been here for 500 years, and our own candidate is still not allowed to head the committee for Romany affairs."

Nearly every black immigrant has a story of bureaucratic injustice. Housseine, a Moroccan interpreter at a refugee centre in the city of Tampere, said he knows of only one black person who has won a discrimination or abuse case. "Some policemen say quite openly: 'Fight back when you're attacked, but don't hang around till we arrive, because the law isn't on your side'," he said. "The visa people hold your passport for six months while they decide if you can stay, even if you have a Finnish wife. If you want to travel, sure, you can have your passport, but then the whole entry process starts over again."

Ole Norrback, the European affairs minister and one of the few politicians to argue for higher immigration, admits there are difficulties. "I don't think Finland is racist, but Finns are cautious about foreigners for good historical reasons. It's important for Finland that we have more foreigners, and we have no choice now we're in the European Union. But politicians have to lead the way and some are still opposed." But bureaucracy is not all that needs to change. The Golden ABC, a popular children's reader now in its 12th edition, shapes Finnish attitudes young. "The Negro washes his face," it teaches toddlers, "but it never gets any whiter."



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## Accused Serb 'not identified'

Ed Vulliamy in The Hague

A PROSECUTION witness testifying at The Hague war crimes trial failed to identify the defendant Dusko Tadic as having been at the scene of the most brutal crime of which he is charged, the accused man's lawyer said yesterday.

The British counsel's claim came at a controversial out-of-court briefing about evidence which had been given in a closed session, and on a day when Mr Tadic's defence stepped up its cross-examination with more aggressive questioning.

Further details of brutality at the Omarska concentration camp in Serb-held Bosnia were given by Husein Hodzic, a former employee at the mining complex, who said that Serbian soldiers on leave from the front were unleashed upon prisoners, free to kill and mutilate them.

The former mine supervisor also testified to seeing bodies loaded onto trucks after a massacre.

In a surprise interview given without court privilege, Steven Kay QC, Mr Tadic's counsel, reported details of a session held in camera on Wednesday when a witness code-named "H" had given evidence.

"H" is an Omarska survivor who was forced to hold down a fellow inmate by the arms while another prisoner performed oral sex on him before biting off his testicles. He testified in camera, in order to protect his identity.

But Mr Kay said "H" had testified that "the witness said Tadic was not the man. He saw a man who ordered the attack and it was not Tadic. He failed to recognise Mr Tadic."

Mr Kay's disclosures are likely to provoke a serious row, with prosecution sources last night insisting: "This was a closed session. Moreover, this is some kind of information about the castration, which is only part of a count relating to the murder of four people."

During the morning before "H" had given his evidence, another witness to the castration and murders, Halil Mujkanovic, did identify Mr Tadic among the Serbian soldiers responsible for the brutal incident.

Mr Hodzic yesterday became the first former employee of the Omarska complex to give evidence, describing how weapons were handed out to Serbian workers on the day the mine was closed to be converted into a camp in May 1992.

After being separated from his 12-year-old son, who boarded a bus for women and children, Mr Hodzic described special beatings upon his arrival at "my former place of work".

He told the court how corpses were piled on to trucks at Omarska by a mechanical loader formerly used "for rocks and stones". The testimony corroborated reports, hitherto sketchy, of a massacre in Omarska in June 1992 of Muslims taken from the nearby village of Hambarine.

Mr Hodzic said that he had seen one of the larger trucks loaded up with corpses on the tarmac at Omarska "when a number of new prisoners had arrived from Hambarine and neighbouring villages. I saw the truck loaded up after they arrived".

He described the last moments of Emir Karabasic, a man Mr Tadic is accused of killing in the same beating session as the castration who is said to have been the defendant's best friend.

Mr Hodzic, who had shared a sleeping area with Karabasic, said he had repeatedly insisted that Mr Tadic would

'The witness said Tadic was not the man. He saw a man who ordered the attack and it was not him. He failed to recognise Tadic'

kill him because he had seen something he "was not supposed to have seen".

Mr Hodzic said: "The first basic thing was that the more you knew, the greater chance you had of being killed" in Omarska.

"So brother would counsel brother not to say anything about what they saw. That was how we felt — if someone saw a monstrous act, shortly afterwards he would disappear."

Mr Karabasic had been badly beaten before the day his name was called. "I'm done for," he had said, before leaving the room and never being seen again.

The court was shown a photograph from before the war of Karabasic and Mr Tadic together, arms around each other's shoulders.

## Britain presses UN to stop 'terrorists' gaining asylum

Richard Norton-Taylor

BRITAIN is pressing for a new United Nations convention which would refuse asylum to anyone planning or funding terrorism, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, said yesterday.

"Political asylum should not be abused as a shelter for those engaged in terrorism," he said. Anyone engaged in such activities would not be entitled to the benefits of the UN convention on refugees.

The new convention, said Mr Howard, would declare planning, financing and incitement to terrorism contrary to "the principles and purposes" of the UN. However, the idea — already canvassed by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary — has prompted concern among officials of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees who say it could cast its net too wide.

Mr Howard said yesterday he was "reasonably confident" of an agreement in the UN on the plan. The proposal is one of what Mr Howard described as three practical measures Britain will table at a meeting of foreign and interior ministers of the G7 industrial nations — plus Russia — in Paris on Tuesday.

Britain will also propose an extension of counter-terrorism "centres of excellence" beyond the EU to include the US, Canada, and Japan. The idea was to exchange expertise in different countries. For example, Mr Howard said, Britain's security and police forces had developed skills in "bomb rescue" techniques and in forensic science as a result of the IRA's activities.

France — singled out by Mr Howard as the country with which Britain had developed close co-operation — had experience with extreme Islamic groups, while Japan had experience of chemical attacks.

Mr Howard also confirmed that the government will extend the law of criminal conspiracy. It will be an offence to engage in conspiracy with others, or incite others, to commit terrorist offences abroad. Under existing law, the only overseas crime for which foreign residents can be prosecuted abroad is conspiracy to commit murder.

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Diary Dan Atkinson

STEP forward the real victor of those shadow cabinet elections: St Pancras (by way of York...

ELSEWHERE in the movement, Ponty-pridded Mr Kim "Get Real" Howell faces a ghost from his past...

ALL dressed up (1): Best of British to former Observer editor Andrew Jaspas in his new role as managing director...

ALL dressed up (2): There were two key Whitehall meetings on Wednesday, chaired by (deputy) premier Heseltine...

RIGHT-ON Red Pepper, the "voice for the independent left" (another one), transmits from the cavernous evening edition...

TWELVE years ago, David Price's harrowing TV play "Barry" Day Women told of a group of land-army girls raped and murdered by a rogue Home Guard unit...

As those shadow-cabinet victors in Old Labour are alive and kicking in the provinces...



Selling sport, sex, lies and videotape

Commentary Peter Preston

HERE is said an unrepentant spy, an unrepentant liar, a man who has seen it all...

There is a lot to be learned from the Athens Olympics...

Michael White argues that the antics of both Labour and Tory Eurosceptics ensure their parties are mired in low politics, while below, Paddy Ashdown claims a place on higher ground for the Lib Dems

Love-hate relations

THE European issue burst into flame again like a summer brush fire...

In the Times, John Major insisted (yet again) that it would be "a dereliction of responsibility" for him to rule out joining the Franco-German euro-bloc...



ravaged dolls. Dominique, who is 14 and used to be a Romantan, has the broken leg and the starring role until she vaults on to her emaciated bottom...

Has this anything to do with sport as we know it? Not a lot...

There is, of course, no reason to sink everyone who the NBC debacle...

NBC's prior research apparently identifies women's gymnastics as a prime audience...

European championships, had the feeling of a country entwined in the hype...

You must not, I suppose, get too bufferishly indignant about such spectacles...

There is a lot to be learned from the Athens Olympics, and the rest of the world provides the bit players...

Europeanism at the Savoy Hotel last week for Sir Edward Heath's 80th birthday...

His unbending pro-Europeanism was a recurring theme in their short speeches...

No cabinet which still contains him and Clarke (who has now threatened to resign five times)...

In his Times interview yesterday Major spoke of New Labour "panicking in spasms" whenever things go wrong...

Why Margaret Drabble? What's wrong with me?



Bel Littlejohn

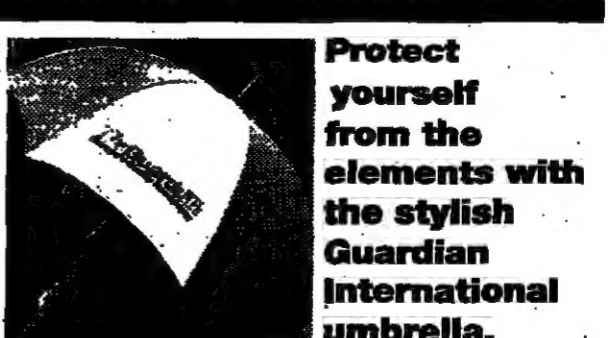
THANKS, guys. Thanks a bloody lot. It's not that I'm upset...

Over the years, I've put my reputation on the line by lending my name to some truly brave campaigns...

Frankly, it was great to be associated so publicly with such a brave initiative...

In his Times interview yesterday Major spoke of New Labour "panicking in spasms" whenever things go wrong...

The Guardian International Umbrella



This large blue and white golfing umbrella features a fox frame and wooden handle, £19.50. Price includes postage, packing and handling charges.

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Please send me Guardian International umbrella/s at £19.50; cost £... I enclose a cheque/money order for the sum of £... or please debit my Visa/Mastercard account.

A doorway to the future

FROM crime to education, British politics increasingly resembles a game of shadow-boxing...

The loss in both prestige and money to Britain would be real and powerful

And last, in an era of foot-loose capital, the inward investment currently coming into Britain would go into the single currency area instead...

BSE crisis should doubt that

There will be difficulties for Britain in joining a single currency. But the pain, in jobs, trade, money and influence, of being outside if it goes ahead will be immeasurably greater...

Jock Wallace

Rangers' man of the match

JOCK WALLACE, the former manager of Glasgow Rangers and a clutch of other football clubs, has died aged 60 of Parkinson's disease.

A son of Wallyford, the East Lothian mining village where shoulders and spirits were developed to withstand a punishing existence...

But it was in the army, as a non-commissioned officer in the King's Own Scottish Borderers...

The fans loved Big Jock, whom they rightly identified as one of themselves, a rough diamond with a gruff tongue

promoted to general manager. Rangers won the Scottish Cup the following season and, in 1976, their first League championship in 11 years.

dispute over his salary, for Leicester City. He returned to manage Motherwell before being recalled to the Rangers job in 1983.

Wallace accepted with typical barrack-room philosophy the trials that cropped up in the course of a manager's life.

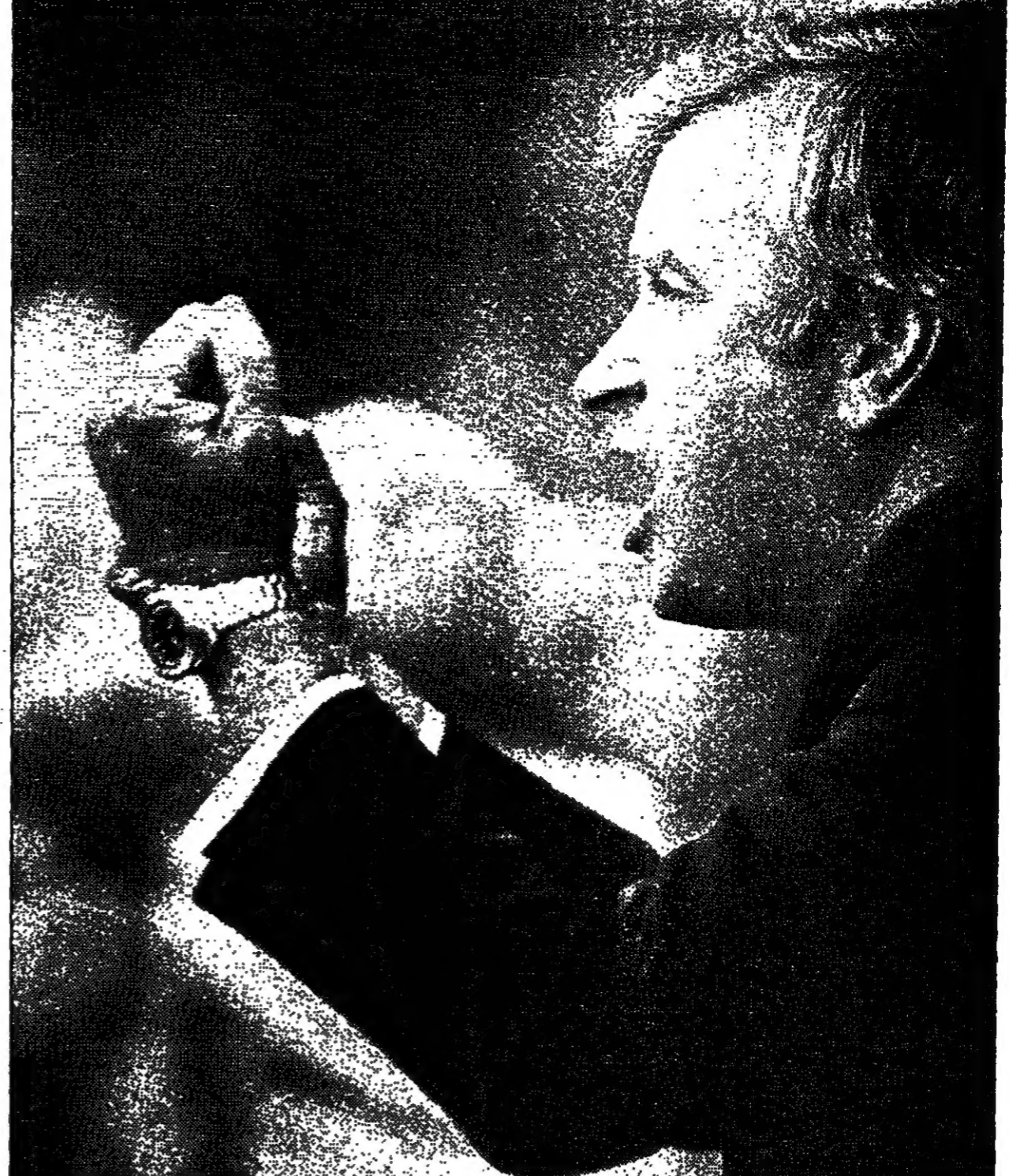
The fans loved Big Jock, whom they rightly identified as one of themselves, a rough diamond with a gruff tongue but a Rangers man through and through.

I recall a post-match press conference at which Wallace's eye alighted on an unfamiliar reporter representing a Glasgow newspaper who had been ill-advised enough to wear a khaki anorak rather than

more conventional press box attire. "Who are you from?" the manager demanded. "The IRA?" Jock Wallace and the sand dunes of Gullane were for long linked in the minds of the Scottish football public.

Football fans of all persuasions were saddened by the decline of Wallace's health in recent years. For him, trading was one part of working with Third World farmers to strengthen their position in world markets.

Jock Wallace, football manager, born September 6, 1936; died July 24, 1996.



Jock Wallace... Architect of the most famous Scottish Cup upset of modern history

Tamara Danz

The voice for lost children

TAMARA Danz, who has died aged 43, was East Germany's most successful rock singer in the 1980s.

Throughout East Germany would often join in as she sang 'Alles wird besser, aber nichts wird gut'.

They would love to flee to the warm countries of the lost children in the streets of Berlin.

Like most easterners, Danz rejoiced when the Berlin Wall fell but she soon became disillusioned with the new Germany.

She worked as a backing singer in a succession of three bands before joining Silly, a rock band formed in 1978 to circumvent the government-sponsored cultural network.



Tamara Danz... East Germany's most popular rock singer

While we're out in the middle of the square they slaughter the last factories.

Danz turned her concerts into protests against the destruction of East German identity and the exclusion of easterners from the process of shaping the new Germany.

Denise Staunton Tamara Danz, singer, born December 14, 1952; died July 22, 1996.

Richard Day

A good man in Africa

RICHARD DAY, who has died of a brain tumour aged 46, was a pioneer of the alternative trade movement, although he would have denied that what he was doing could be thought of as anything so pretentious.

Richard Day, engineer and development expert, born April 23, 1948; died July 22, 1996.

coffee farmers in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, and cocoa farmers in Ghana, producing for export. Not only did he establish commercially successful delivery systems, he also helped in the development of democratic village societies which took the marketing of their crops into their own hands.

BY CARRYING out water engineering consultancies in African countries, he established Twin's reputation for expertise. And by ensuring that Twin supplied appropriate equipment with technical back-up for its own and other aid projects in Mozambique, Senegal, Sahawi and elsewhere, he gave Twin Trading a record of honest and efficient dealing.



Richard Day... Fair trader

Birthdays

Pauline Clare, chief constable, Lancashire, 48; Blake Edwards, film director, 74; Susan George, actress, 48; Sir Peter Hall, diplomat, ambassador to Argentina, 58; Mick Jagger, Rolling Stone, 58; Barbara Jefford, actress, 66; Stanley Kubrick, film producer and director, 68; Danny La Rue, female impersonator, 69; Dr Brian Mawhinney, MP, chairman, Conservative Party, 56; Helen Mirren, actress, 50; Sally O'Sullivan, editor-in-chief, Good Housekeeping, 47; Lance Percival, entertainer, 63; Sir Keith Peters, Regius prof of physic, University of Cambridge, 68; Jason Robards, actor, 74; Bernice Rubens, novelist, 68; Stephen Whittle, chief scientist, editorial policy, BBC, 51; Dr Anne Wright, vice-chancellor, Sunderland University, 50.

Death Notices

BLACKBAY Peter Norman of Wallingford, died suddenly in his 75th year on holiday in Polman on 23rd July 1996. Father of David, Oliver and Stephen; grandfather of Anne, Joshua, Billy and William; widower of Daphne (nee Bennett); son of the late Mr and Mrs A. G. Norman; survived by three children, five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. Burial on 29th July 1996. Our feelings of love and sympathy go to all those who loved and miss him. The Martin Family.

In Memoriam

In loving memory of Rodney Martin whose life will be sorely missed by his family and friends. Our feelings of love and miss him. The Martin Family.

Marriages

Michael Barratt Brown Richard Day, engineer and development expert, born April 23, 1948, died July 22, 1996.

Jackdaw



Chill out

I ARRIVED at Leary's house to find an ambulance outside his house, being loaded with his cryonics coffin. It turned out that a short time before, a team from the CryoCare Foundation—the outfit that is to undertake the freezing and preservation of Leary's brain upon his death—had come in to remove all its equipment.

some people at the house had been trying to keep CryoCare's technicians away from Leary. More important, CryoCare's Mike Darwin had grown alarmed about Leary's pronouncements on his plan to commit suicide live (so to speak) on the World Wide Web.

For their part, the Leary folks had become increasingly put off by what they regarded as CryoCare's ghoulish interest in obtaining the head of Timothy Leary. The problem was exacerbated when they learned that a CryoCare official who would be involved with the decapitation and freezing process, Charles Platt, had an assignment to write about the operation for Wired magazine.

and his impatience with Leary for not dying as soon as he had expected. "What insane will to live," he wrote in one letter.

Leary's decision was not a small thing for him. He told me once that he did not believe anything survived beyond death, that if we possess a soul, then the soul is our mind, and the brain is the soul's home.

dream in his final season. The American way of death, 1986. Mikal Gilmore witnesses a glitch in Timothy Leary's plans to become a 'Cold Lazarus', Rolling Stone.

Milky ways

SIR, You published a photograph of Mr Heathcoat-Amory at his breakfast table (July 24). Can any person who permits a milk bottle in his table be considered fit to hold office?

MICHAEL BAULF, Tonbridge, Kent That's Tonbridge not Tumbidge. A Daily Telegraph reader spots the real root of the heart of Tory rule.

Really yummy?

Tasty Insect Recipes Banana Wormbread 1/2 cup shortening 1/2 cup sugar 2 bananas, mashed 2 cups flour 1 tsp soda 1 tsp salt

1/2 cup chopped nuts 2 eggs 1/2 cup dry-roasted army worms Mix together all the ingredients. Bake in greased loaf pan at 350 degrees for about 1 hour. Rootworm Beetle Dip 2 cups low-fat cottage cheese 1 1/2 tsp lemon juice 2 tablespoons skimmed milk 1/2 cup reduced-calorie mayonnaise 1/2 cup parsley, chopped 1 tablespoon onion, chopped 1/4 tsp dill weed 1 1/4 tsp Beau Monde 1 cup dry-roasted rootworm beetles Blend first three ingredients. Add remaining ingredients and chill. Chocolate Chipotle Chip Cookies 2 1/2 cups flour 1 tsp baking soda 1 tsp salt 1 cup butter, softened 1/2 cup sugar 1/2 cup brown sugar 1 tsp vanilla

2 eggs 1 1/2 ounce chocolate chips 1 cup chopped nuts 1/2 cup dry-roasted crickets Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In small bowl, combine flour, baking soda and salt. In large bowl, combine butter, sugar and vanilla; beat until creamy. Beat in eggs. Gradually add flour mixture and insects, mix well. Stir in chocolate chips. Drop by rounded measuring teaspoons onto a greased cookie sheet. Bake for 8-10 minutes.

Insect recipes at: www.silviculture.com/misc/insects/ASFOOD.html. Jackdaw has not tested them, so on your head be it...

Cost of peace

Payments for loss of: Both arms or both hands, or both legs or both feet, or sight in both eyes \$30,000 Hearing \$17,500 Sight in one eye (presuming sight in other eye is normal) \$12,000 Arm (at shoulder) \$30,000 Arm (at or below wrist) \$38,000 Hand (at or below wrist) \$27,000 Thumb \$11,000 Index finger \$7,000 Middle finger \$5,500 Ring finger \$2,500 Fourth finger \$1,500 Leg (above the knee) \$20,000 Leg (at or below knee) \$12,000 Foot (at or below ankle) \$14,000 Big toe \$2,500 Any other toe \$800 Compensation for the United Nations pays to soldiers injured in unacknowledged wars, reproduced in Herpetol.



Dead cool... Rolling Stone

Aliens

Alien invasion America is a red herring. Dicks are already been conquered, brainwashed, by a being from another planet. I have my doubts about whether men are from Mars and Women are from Venus, but I feel almost certain that you, John Gray—tireless peddler of Mars-Venus books, tapes and infomercials—are speaking from Uranus.

My theory is that planet of frozen gas, so slow discord between men and women on earth by convincing them never to actually take the other at their word, never to believe that they might mean what they say. Ron Rosenbaum brings a bestseller down to earth in the New York Observer.

Desmond Christy Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 071-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 199 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.



1550

# The shadow chancellor is under siege from enemies within and without. He talks to LARRY ELLIOTT and MICHAEL WHITE

## Fighting talk from embattled Mr Brown

THE results of the shadow cabinet elections tell their own story: this has not been a happy summer for Gordon Brown. At Labour's annual Westminster beauty contest on Wednesday night, he dropped from third to 14th place.

Attacked by his own left-wingers over his clumsily presented plans to target child benefit in favour of poorer 16-to-18-year-olds, he was also criticised for what some saw as a lacklustre performance in the end-of-term debate on the economy against Kenneth Clarke.

Even the Treasury's "kids in the office" memo lost its shine when the chief author, Helen Goodman, turned out to be a Labourer. Now the shadow chancellor is bracing himself for what he sees as a pincer movement from the utilities in cahoots with Michael Heseltine.

"The utilities and the Conservative Party are running a joint campaign, which is an amazing thing. The Conservative Party is the political arm of the utilities," says Mr Brown, adding that it is no coincidence that the high priests of right-wing spin — Sir Tim Bell and Maurice Saatchi — work for the privatised industries and Central Office.

"There is an element of dirty tricks in all this. The attacks are being mounted simultaneously and it is being suggested, quite wrongly, that I am backing down on the utilities tax. Michael Heseltine has a brief to work with the utilities to undermine the utilities tax."

Far from having a change of heart, the shadow chancellor insists that he is more determined than ever to tax the windfall profits of water, gas and electricity — the one specific tax-raising pledge that he is allowed by Labour's pre-election fiscal caution.

He cites the case of Thames Water, generous donors to the Conservative Party. "This is one of the most profitable companies in Britain and it

pays its directors huge incomes, yet it doesn't pay mainstream corporation tax." Excess profits, minimal tax payments and under-investment constitute a potent election target. While the utilities tax, coupled with a pledge to clamp down on corporate tax evasion, will be one of Mr Brown's main policy ideas as polling day looms.

It feeds into his over-arching theme, namely that the economy under Labour will be organised for the many, not the few. However, as Wednesday's vote suggests, the message has so far failed to ignite much enthusiasm.

In his new office, the Cloisters in the neo-Gothic heart of the Palace of Westminster, Mr Brown bridges the divide between Labour's economic strategy and the Conservative Party's defence of macro-economic caution. It is Labour lost in 1992 because it was seen as the party that "people thought taxed almost at will, saw every solution as a spending solution and always took the soft option, always took the easy way out."

Was this month's Road to the Manifesto statement fiscally cautious? "Yes. I make no apology for that. We will not be serving the people who depend on public services well if we attempt to run an unsustainable level of public spending and are forced to rein back at the expense of those people." The goal is sustainable levels of spending.

Labour in power, he insists, will represent a radical departure. At an institutional level, this means a revised Treasury mission statement, greater openness and a "real economy" unit inside Great George Street to study the cause of inequality and poverty.

"In the past, efforts have



been concentrated on tackling the consequences of poverty, compensating people for poverty: a really radical programme attacks the root causes of poverty."

Labour intends to achieve this by using the windfall tax to get 250,000 people under 25 off benefit and into work, and by the now-notorious idea that child benefit should be abolished for the over 16s and the money used for an educational maintenance allowance for the most needy.

In other words, despite all the brouhaha, it is classically redistributive. Post-16 child benefit is only paid to those families whose children are

still at school, and this tends to benefit the better-off. Money saved from abolishing this benefit could then be used to persuade children from poorer families to become better qualified.

"I am serious about tackling inequality, but you just can't say that there will be no change to anything. You have got to say where the resources are going to come from," says Mr Brown.

The shadow chancellor rejects the suggestion that Labour is going soft on the minimum wage. Despite pressure from the unions, the Opposition has refused to set a rate, saying that a decision

will be made after consultation with an independent commission to be set up after the election.

But Mr Brown said his determination to act has hardened as a result of the recent explosion in low-paid work. "Catering trolley operators on the privatised railways have seen their wages cut from £3 to £1.10 an hour, with no holiday entitlement, no sick pay and no travel to work allowance. That is why we need a minimum wage."

At the other end of the scale, the big economic numbers, Mr Brown is determined to prevent Ken Clarke getting away with what Norman

Lamont pulled off in 1992: fudged figures which led to huge tax increases.

He wants an independent audit of the Treasury's books to ascertain what is cyclical and what is structural, and why VAT and corporation tax receipts have fallen so unexpectedly. "A quite incredible large number of companies pay no tax at all, when they are making substantial profits."

He added: "I want a full debate on the state of public finances in the run-up to November. It is not in the public interest that we fight the election on a false basis. Everyone was deceived in 1992."

## MPs urge clamp on petrol firms

Simon Beavis  
Industrial Editor

MPs called on competition authorities yesterday to clamp down on petrol companies, amid warnings of some retailers being squeezed and forecourt prices rising, particularly in rural areas.

After the latest in a string of inquiries into the petrol market, the Commons trade and industry select committee concluded that there was no case for a general reference of the industry to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

But MPs said that the sector required constant monitoring by the Office of Fair Trading and called for the Government to give the OFT greater powers to investigate and stamp out any anti-competitive abuses.

The report follows a series of inquiries into an industry which has long been accused of artificially inflating prices, allegations it has always strongly denied.

The MMC investigated the industry in 1983, 1979 and 1990, while in the same year the OFT investigated allegations of profiteering during the Gulf War and then did a follow-up study for the MMC in 1993.

This latest inquiry by the committee, its second, follows a radical shake-up after the OFT investigated allegations of profiteering during the Gulf War and then did a follow-up study for the MMC in 1993.

The committee concludes, in a report published yesterday, that intense competition between the leading oil companies and hypermarkets is delivering lower prices to consumers and that a full investigation by competition authorities is unnecessary.

But, it adds: "We recognise that a decline in competition in petrol retailing could have serious consequences."

"Therefore, we believe it necessary for the OFT to institute a regime of continuous monitoring and for the director general of Fair Trading to have the power to take immediate action against compe-

nies acting in an anti-competitive manner."

The MPs say that the committee has repeatedly called for the Government to shake-up competition rules and note that it has recently signalled its willingness to do so. The committee urges ministers to grant tougher powers to the director general "as a matter of urgency".

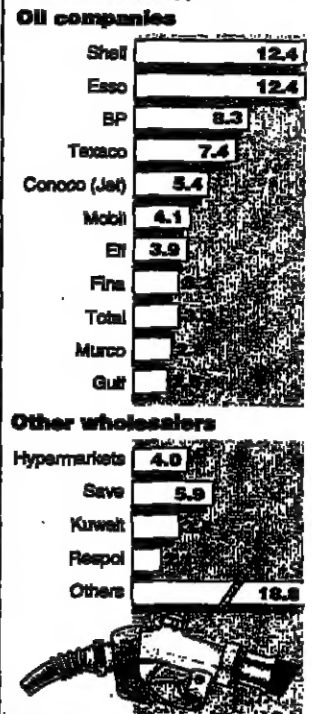
The Conservative-dominated committee rejected arguments from BP that it was impossible to see petrol retailing as a local activity and that retailers had no ability to impose a local monopoly.

The committee believed that there was a threat in some areas, particularly remote rural areas, that if small retailers were to close in significant numbers, bigger players could build up local monopolies and abuse their market power.

It said the OFT should pay particular attention to detecting the emergence of local monopolies.

### Pump up the volume

Retail market share, January 1996  
% of retail sites supplied



### News in brief

#### Britannia to review 20,000 policies

BRITANNIA Building Society yesterday began a review of 20,000 life and investment policies after the suspension of almost one-fifth of its sales force. An internal review found they were failing to follow recognised procedures. The society said customers were not affected by the actions of 39 of its 184 sales representatives and stressed there was no evidence of mis-selling. However, if the review discovered any customers were wrongly advised they would be compensated.

Staff concerned were selling Britannia Life insurance and investment products, such as Peps and unit trusts, to existing Britannia customers from branches all over the country. A review carried out by Price Waterhouse at Britannia's request showed that staff were not following correct procedures. — Teresa Hunter

#### Rebel Names urged to settle

ONE of Lloyd's of London's most active adversaries — the Feltrim Names Association — was yesterday advised by its chairman to accept the insurance market's \$3.1 billion settlement offer. Deacon de Lencle told a meeting of Feltrim Names — who have so far recovered an average \$31,000 per head through legal action against Lloyd's — that the package was greater than could be recovered through the courts.

At the same time, the Association of Lloyd's Members warned thousands of action group members that they were unlikely to get a better deal by rejecting the settlement and fighting a fraud action against the market. — Sarah Whitebloom

#### Scottish TV confident

SCOTTISH Television was last night confident its £20 million bid for Caledonian Publishing, owner of the Glasgow Herald, would escape monopoly hurdles. The deal — finalised at about £20 million more than Caledonian was expected to raise through a stock market flotation — will, however, mean Scottish will have to "warehouse" its new publishing operations until the Government's relaxed media ownership rules come into force in the autumn.

"The television company plans to expand into magazine publishing and hopes that by becoming larger it will become a less easy TV takeover target. — Lisa Buckingham

## Lloyds TSB will show you can still bank on loans

### Outlook

Sarah Whitebloom

WHO would have thought it? Certainly not three of our Big Four high street banks. Retail banking is emerging as the glamour end of the market.

It is the area which will be the focus of the City's thinking as the banks' results season begins today with interviews from Lloyds TSB — the one that did think it.

Unlike Barclays, NatWest and the Midland (now owned by HSBC), Lloyds never caught the investment banking bug. While its competitors

were setting up prestigious City operations and talking about becoming international financial institutions, Lloyds plugged away at what it knew best — retail banking.

It came in for a lot of stick. After all, while its competitors were making huge profits from foreign exchange dealing, Lloyds was conspicuously not. Critics even wrote Lloyds off as not being in the game any more. But it doggedly followed the strategy and attempted to turn itself into the retail bank, first by an abortive bid for the Midland and then successful takeovers of the Cheltenham & Gloucester building society and the TSB.

Now Lloyds is looking rather clever. Investment banking profits have always

been regarded as poor-quality income — some years you make it, some years you lose it. But this reporting season, more than ever, the City is looking to retail earnings to provide real growth.

Red debts, which for so long dominated results, are at a cyclical low point, so there will be little added value this time round from lower provisions. It is old-fashioned lending that is forecast to boost the bottom line.

Over the next couple of weeks, the six retail banks are set to unveil total pre-tax profits, before exceptionals, of more than \$6 billion — a 10 per cent increase on last year's \$5.5 billion. (NatWest's post-exceptionals profit will suffer from a \$690 million

writes-off from the sale of its US operation, Bancorp.)

Few surprises are expected, although if dividends are not well ahead there will be much disappointment. But the focus will be on the higher retail contributions and particularly how well the banks are doing in terms of cost savings and cross-selling.

Lending across the board — not just mortgages — is expected to be well up. Although

this will be welcomed, it brings fears of another bad-debt cycle.

With new control systems in place, the banks are more confident about loan quality, but there are fears that this will suffer in the scramble to lend. There also has to be a question about how long the current favourable interest rate margins can be sustained.

Because of this, cross-selling will be under scrutiny. Once

again, Lloyds is perceived to have been more clever than the rest. Its strategy of investing in brand names such as C&G makes attempts to cross-sell easier and brings in additional customers.

Some movement in cost/income ratio is also expected from the clearer. Despite the job cuts and branch closures throughout the sector, there has been precious little to show in terms of cost savings.

The development of investment banking arms comes into this equation, too. As one analyst said: "What's the point in cutting staff in the branch network? They aren't paid very much... but the banks have cut them out and replaced them with merchant bankers — who are."

### THE BANK ACCOUNTS

	Interim Pre Tax Profit £m	Estimated	Last year
Abbey National	544		483
Barclays	1,125		1,125
Lloyds TSB Group	1,140		1,021
NatWest	225		872
HSBC Holdings	2,105		1,737
Standard Chartered	385		319




# "SPEED KILLS ...YOUR COMPETITORS."

"Is your company on Mercury's fast data network?"

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer  
Telephone: 0171-239-9610  
Fax: 0171-833-4456

# Finance Guardian

Company serves DTI with writ and threatens to withhold payments as North Sea revenues dispute worsens

## British Gas sues in tax row

Chris Barrie  
Business Correspondent

**T**HE Government was yesterday embroiled in an unprecedented legal battle with British Gas and 26 oil companies over North Sea tax revenues worth £1 billion.

British Gas also announced that it would withhold future tax worth about £30 million a year arising from the disputed contracts.

The department said it did not believe British Gas's interpretation of the law was correct. The Government had to reserve its right to raise the money from the oil and gas industry.

Last year the tax — the gas levy — raised £150 million and is set at 4p per therm. Over ten years, BG has paid £3.2 billion to the Exchequer through the levy which was imposed on gas originally exempt from petroleum revenue tax.

Should it win, BG would win back £1 billion and boost profits at its trading arm, British Gas Energy, which is to be formed when the company splits in two next spring.

Oil companies said they believed BG was stepping up pressure for a resolution of its attempts to renegotiate the terms of long term take-or-pay contracts relating to North Sea gas fields.

Trade motors in right direction

## Notebook



Edited by Mark Milner

**F**ORGET inflation. For as long as anyone can remember it has been the balance of payments that has been the Achilles' heel of the British economy. Now, it appears, all that is changing.

**U**nhelpful surprise  
NOT for the first time the Bundesbank has successfully ambushed financial markets. Indeed, catching the markets on the hop has become such a favourite Bundesbank pastime that the biggest surprise is that anyone should be surprised.

**G**loves off again  
BRITISH Gas is pretty good at picking fights. It is currently at loggerheads with its regulator over price caps for its Transco pipelines business and is facing the threat of referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

## £5m wiped off BT profits as redundancy costs take toll

**B**ITISH Telecom, still searching for an agreement with its regulator over future price caps to avoid a clash with the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, reported a £5 million drop in first-quarter profits to £869 million yesterday as higher redundancy costs took their toll.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1,9050	France 7.59	Italy 2.300	Singapore 2.15
Austria 15.74	Germany 2.5400	Japan 169.50	South Africa 5.05
Belgium 48.07	Greece 359.00	Netherlands 2.5170	Spain 169.50
Canada 68.15	Hong Kong 11.71	New Zealand 2.17	Sweden 10.076
Cyprus 0.6815	India 52.21	Norway 9.88	Switzerland 1.910
Denmark 8.6775	Ireland 0.9345	Portugal 231.00	Turkey 124.254
Finland 6.96	Israel 4.91	Saudi Arabia 3.70	USA 1.5180



Away draw... John Moores, 67, eldest son of the late Sir John Moores — creator of the football pools — yesterday announced his retirement as a Littlewoods non-executive director in October, fifty years after joining the family firm. His elder sister, Lady Grantham, and her son, James Sussex-Taylor, remain as family representatives on the board. PHOTOGRAPH: PETER BYRNE

## Hays holds merger talks with Salvesen

**P**aul Murphy  
THE £2.5 billion merger of two of Britain's best-known business services groups, Hays and Christian Salvesen, was under discussion yesterday.

## Export boom cuts UK trade gap to £171m

**R**ichard Thomas  
Economics Correspondent  
**B**OOMING exports to continental Europe have trimmed the UK's trade deficit and given a fresh dose of optimism to hard-pressed manufacturers.

## Guardian Crossword No 20,715

Set by Gordius

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

- Across**
- 1 Cecil and Frank in Wessex (9,5)
  - 8 A man is bound to take her niece's part (5)
  - 9 Wisdom of Troy, for example? (8)
  - 11 Reaction of French at destruction of Paris? ... (7)
  - 12 ... Free French article written about the battle (7)
  - 13 Bred a Calm (5)
  - 15 Well used equipment (5,4)
  - 17 Nude actor should be primed before putting this on (9)
  - 20 Mood of the church, always far from 11 (5)
  - 21 Frank is a versatile artisan (7)
  - 23 It's not hard to see this isn't Howard's Way (7)
  - 25 It's a good car — take it out on test (8)
- Down**
- 1 Spender rules out need for economy (7,5)
  - 2 Connections with holes (5)
  - 3 Cast with a model audience — it makes one weep (4,1,4)
  - 4 Separate fashionable quarters from ship's company (7)
  - 5 Exercises almost cause pain together with health food (7)
  - 6 See some calls are cheaper than others (5)
  - 7 Acquaint with trade reduction (9)
  - 10 Comic character in 11 and upset (8,3)

## Mortgage reins tugged

**B**UILDING societies were warned yesterday to be more vigilant about checking borrowers' ability to repay mortgages, especially the less profitable discount loans.

## Building society regulator wants prudence, says RACHEL BAIRD

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